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FBIS-SOV-96-116 *14 June 1996*

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Russia: FBIS Presidential Election Report 13 Jun
WA1406004296

[FBIS Report] ***This is the ninth in a series of FBIS reports on Russian regional developments in the campaign for the 16 June presidential election. FBIS plans to continue this report through the second-round of elections if they take place. It is based solely on Russian media reporting from Moscow and provincial sources (see note 1).***

(Note 1) FBIS postal receipt of some Russian local media sources accounts for the dated nature of certain items cited. This FBIS media note presents the local media in the timeliest manner possible, given procurement constraints.

Shumeyko Kneads Novosibirsk for Yeltsin Vladimir Shumeyko, former Federation Council chairman and leader of the pro-Yeltsin "Reforms—New Course" movement, strongly endorsed Yeltsin in an interview published in VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK (31 May). While conceding that Russia's reforms "have to be changed," he defended Yeltsin personally, saying that "it is not necessary to change presidents." He claimed that "there is no one in Russia at present who would be able to shoulder [Russia's] heavy burden."

NE DAY BOG—As Anti-Communist as It Wants To Be The fourth issue (11 May) of the anticommunist supplement NE DAY BOG is harsh in its rhetoric, its depiction of the communist threat to Russia, and of what it portrays as the communists' limited base of support. Taking a cynical, almost apocalyptic tone from cover to cover, the free weekly's masthead reads, "A Newspaper About What Could Happen After 16 June." The following are examples of feature articles from the six-page supplement:

- On the front page, the editorial board answers, "What Is This Newspaper?" It claims that the omission (for which it was criticized by the regions and the Central Electoral Commission) of the paper's circulation—which it claims to be 10 million—and official registration number from early issues was an "honest mistake." It claims to have "nothing against [Communist Party leader and presidential candidate] Gennadiy Zyuganov personally," but says that the "views on life that [Zyuganov] suggests we accept," do not "suit" the editorial board. While admitting that "several readers" contend the supplement is "very harsh" and "malicious," the editorial board justified its stand by saying that the newspaper is harsh "because the situation in the country is harsh."
- The supplement features an article and photo essay on the 1996 May Day demonstrations. The collage of 12 photos features ragged-looking pensioners carrying Soviet flags and pictures of Stalin, a clear attempt to suggest that Zyuganov's base of support is limited to a narrow, elderly segment of Russia's electorate.
- NE DAY BOG also featured an interview with Marina Vladi, widow of the tremendously popular Soviet-era Russian actor, poet and folk singer Vladimir Vysotskiy. The article asserted that Vladi blames the communists for Vysotskiy's death and cited her as saying that "communist bureaucrats are responsible for the death of many Soviet artists." She adds that "they did not execute them by firing squad, as Stalin did, they only outlawed them, but everyone knows, that they were the executioners, that they robbed Russia of its best creators."
- NE DAY BOG also features a crossword puzzle depicting a cloaked horseman with what appears to be a Soviet red-star on his helmet and saddle wreaking havoc on a burning city—presumably another depiction of "what could happen after 16 June."

Kabardino-Balkaria President Repeats Yeltsin's Call To Support "The Cause" Kabardino-Balkaria's President Valeriy Kokov urged the republic's voters to support Yeltsin's candidacy and to view this not so much as support for Yeltsin personally, as for the "cause" initiated in Russia five years ago. Kokov called the election "fateful" and, echoing Yeltsin's comments in Kaliningrad in May (KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 18 May), asserted that the Russian people will be voting "not for a person, but for the path of their development in the near future." He added that Yeltsin and Zyuganov represent "two different courses of development," one aiming to return to the past and the other to continue reforms (KABARDINO-BALKARSKAYA PRAVDA, 11 June).

Appeal to Moscow Yields Dividends for the Far North Representatives from Russia's Far North have endorsed Yeltsin's candidacy after apparently receiving guarantees of support for Far North residents. At a late April congress of the Union of Cities of the Transpolar Area and the Far North in Apatity, Murmansk Oblast, the heads of 22 administrations decided they would announce endorsement of a candidate only after meeting Yeltsin in the Kremlin on 15 May to discuss their concerns for the region. The Congress' participants had agreed that the Far North's problems "continue to be unresolved" (POLYARNAYA PRAVDA, 25 April). The meeting with Yeltsin appears to have brought results, or at least promises. A 23 May edict

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announced support measures for Arkhangelsk Oblast, the Far North, and their inhabitants (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 29 May). Shortly thereafter, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI (4 June) published a letter from the Union endorsing Yeltsin's candidacy, and claiming that pensioners now had the "prospect" of residence in the "central region" of Russia and the right to receive their pension in any CIS territory, thereby allowing them to leave the Far North's "inhuman [living] conditions."

Irkutsk Electoral Commission Proposes Election Watchdog Coalition Members of the regional electoral commission in Irkutsk proposed the creation of the "For Honest Elections" movement to ensure a free and fair election. Irkutsk's SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH (8 June) published a resolution addressed to the presidential candidates from the Irkutsk electoral commission. "With the goal of excluding mutual reproaches and charges of violation of electoral legislation," the resolution calls on all candidates to be included in the movement, in which candidates' representatives will be designated to all electoral commissions and will be present as observers on election day. The resolution concludes that the "For Honest Elections" movement will "protect the people's decision and support the legitimacy of the election."

Zhirinovskiy Camp in Krasnodar Needs "Medical Attention" Krasnodar's SEVERNYY KAVKAZ (No. 22, June 1996) satirized the relocation of presidential candidate and Liberal-Democratic Party (LDPR) leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's campaign headquarters in Krasnodar to the premises of the municipal public health department. The local headquarters, which had been renting space from the publishing house of the local newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER, recently was forced to close its doors—"at the very height of the presidential campaign"—when KUBANSKIY KURYER went bankrupt. The headquarters moved to the public health department, which SEVERNYY KAVKAZ considered "symbolic," contending that Zhirinovskiy campaigners "require medical attention" after enduring the "violent propaganda" of Zhirinovskiy's speeches.

National Paper Reports Overwhelming Russian Military Support for Yeltsin KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on 11 June quoted the Ukrainian newspaper KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI as saying that 15,557 servicemen stationed in the CIS states, Vietnam, Cuba, Chechnya, and with the Northern and Pacific Fleets had already voted between 31 May and 6 June. The Ukrainian paper claimed that "secret reports" on the voting showed Yeltsin winning in a landslide with 72 percent of the vote, followed far behind by Zyuganov with 16 percent, Lebed with 10 percent and "all others" with a combined 2.5 percent. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev had contended earlier that the servicemen voted overwhelmingly for Yeltsin (INTERFAX, 3 June; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 6 June).

Does Lebed Have a Chance? KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reported on 11 June that election predictions by German sociologists mirror those of Russian pollsters with one notable exception—the Germans foresee General Aleksandr Lebed in third place, only a few percentage points behind Zyuganov. The German Sociological Institute of Eastern Europe predicted that Yeltsin will receive 34 percent of the first round vote, followed by Zyuganov at 24 percent, and Lebed at 19.7 percent, roughly double his figures in most Russian polls. The institute points out that Lebed is particularly popular in Vladimir, Ivanovsk, Kursk, and southern Russia. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA asserted that the institute's prognosis for the Duma elections in December was "rather accurate."

Russia: Chelyabinsk: 32% Back Yeltsin, 53% Expect Reelection

MM1306141296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (DOM I OTECHESTVO Supplement) in Russian 13-21 Jun 96 p iii

[Report by Anatoliy Usoltsev from "Political Thermometer" feature: "Chelyabinsk: The Master Is Thinking"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a poll held on the eve of the elections, the vast majority of inhabitants of Chelyabinsk Oblast — more than 80 percent — intend to take part in the upcoming Russian presidential elections.

But how are the sympathies of Chelyabinsk people distributed with regard to specific candidates? In the leading place on the list of contenders for the top state post is the incumbent president — 32.9 percent of those polled are prepared to vote for Boris Yeltsin today. Second in the ratings is Gennadiy Zyuganov — the Communists' leader has the sympathies of 19 percent of the South Urals people. In third place is Grigoriy Yavlinskiy with 12.1 percent. But Aleksandr Lebed is only 1 percent behind him. As for Shakkum, Tuleyev, Vlasov, Gorbachev, Bryntsalov, and even Svyatoslav Fedorov, they can hardly count on the Chelyabinsk electorate. Their ratings in the South Urals vary between one-tenth and 3.5 percent.

The sociologists then asked their respondents to predict the results of the upcoming elections themselves — who will be elected president of Russia? Here they warned: Don't confuse a prediction with your own wishes. And

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more than half the people of Chelyabinsk — 53.4 percent — named Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

Russia: Omsk Shows High Election Interest; Yeltsin Leads in Polls

MM1306140296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (DOM I OTECHESTVO Supplement) in Russian 13-21 Jun 96 p III

[Report by Margarita Ziangirova from the "Political Thermometer" feature: "Omsk: Three, Five, Zero..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...On the bus, passions were heated. An elderly woman, sweating with heat and from the argument, was trying to change her contemporary's mind: "We used to live better before. The pension was 120 rubles." Her opponent, listening patiently, put forward her own weighty arguments: "We've had our day. Let the young people choose how they want to live now." "You Yeltsinist," the first woman hurled at her, getting out at the next stop.

It is a long time since such a high level of political awareness has been seen in Omsk. The newspapers and local television channels offer their pages and air time to Russian Federation presidential candidates and their agents. There is campaigning at individual level too. A couple of weeks ago zealous supporters of the Communists stuck up leaflets around the city, with verses in red ink in support of Zyuganov. "Yavlinskiy will manage our road," "Zhirinovskiy, order and truth" — these slogans appear all over the city, calling on people to vote for their heroes.

According to polls by Omsk sociologists only 2 percent of people in Omsk have not decided who to vote for. The rest have made their choice. The leader in the Omsk sociological polls is the incumbent President B. Yeltsin. He is followed, a short way behind, by G. Zyuganov and A. Lebed. Incidentally, V. Zhirinovskiy, who has repeatedly named himself as one of the three contenders for the presidency, does not even get into the top five in Omsk.

Preelection activeness is higher than ever before among Omsk students. B. Yeltsin and G. Yavlinskiy enjoy particular popularity with them. M. Shakkum and V. Bryntsalov have zero ratings. G. Zyuganov, who came to Omsk recently, gathered just over 2,000 people for his rally. And that is in the city of a million. The LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader's trip also passed off surprisingly modestly. Be that as it may, the main passions in Omsk now rage between supporters of Yeltsin and the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leader.

Russia: Yeltsin Seen Gaining on Zyuganov in 'Red Belt' Voronezh

MM1306134696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (DOM I OTECHESTVO Supplement) in Russian 13-21 Jun 96 p III

[Report by Gennadiy Litvintsev from the "Political Thermometer" feature: "Voronezh: Backing the 'Kon' Horse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When characterizing the sociopolitical situation in Voronezh, experts usually assign the oblast to the "red belt." But is everything so unequivocal and immobile? No, the situation here too is far from what you could call stagnant, the voters' mood is changeable.

Suffice it to compare the results of two recent polls carried out by the independent consulting firm "Kon" commissioned by the public organization "People's Home." Whereas at the end of April in the oblast as a whole 19.6 percent of respondents were prepared to vote for Boris Yeltsin and 31.3 percent for Gennadiy Zyuganov, at the end of May the figures were 23.4 percent and 30.9 percent respectively.

As you can see, the first contender has markedly "gained" weight, while the latter has "slimmed down." There were marked shifts in particular in the city dwellers' mood: In the oblast center B. Yeltsin's rating went up from 21.4 to 27.5 percent, while G. Zyuganov remained virtually at a standstill on 28.8 percent. Thus the gap between the favorites in the presidential rates has become minimal.

It is also interesting that in the second round (if there is one) sociologists predict a victory for B. Yeltsin in Voronezh: 40.2 percent of city dwellers plan to vote for him, with 37.1 percent for G. Zyuganov. A significant proportion of supporters of G. Yavlinskiy, S. Fedorov, and other contenders intend to vote for the incumbent president in the second round.

The increase in the incumbent president's popularity among people in Voronezh was undoubtedly the result of the vigorous measures adopted by him and by the government to ensure the payment of pensions and wages to budget-funded employees and to end the war in Chechnya and the edicts on imposing order in the economy and stimulating production. All these actions are precisely in accordance with the voters' hopes and expectations.

If you believe the figures from the Center for Information and Socioeconomic Studies, they put peace in Chechnya in first place among mandates to the Russian

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president for the next term, followed by increasing living standards, imposing law and order, increasing social protection, and stabilizing the political situation. And that is precisely what Boris Yeltsin promises Russians.

Naturally, people have become more critical of election programs and trust words and promises less. The real economic situation in the oblast remains fairly complex: The oblast is still among the so-called "depressed" regions where, because of the prevalence of the military-industrial complex, there has been the most profound decline in production, a breakthrough has not yet been achieved in the unemployment situation, and many people have low wages.

But as Aleksandr Kovalev, head of the oblast administration, wrote in his appeal to voters, "the problems of the individual cannot be directly linked to a specific president and democracy in general." The governor called on people to look less at the past and more at the future, to rely more on their own initiative and desire to make life better by their own efforts rather than counting on charity from above, and to assess the authorities by how far they release and stimulate the people's strengths.

Not a bad formula, I think.

The course toward a market economy is approved by the overwhelming majority of the oblast's inhabitants. Undoubtedly some elements of this course need adjusting. But a more considered and carefully weighed policy needs stability.

Russia: Magadan: Poll Shows 20.8 Percent Rating for Zyuganov

MM1306131996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (DOM I OTECHESTVO Supplement) in Russian 13-21 Jun 96 p III

[Report by Mikhail Gorbunov from the "Political Thermometer" feature: "Magadan: Everything Fine and Dandy in the Library"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Local political experts and parties, as well as supporters of the various candidates for the Russian presidency, got a surprise at a public debate between representatives of leading political organizations in the oblast, the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], and "Yabloko," and the newly created regional branch of Vladimir Bryntsalov's Russian Socialist Party. The debate was entitled "One on One With the Elections" and was held in the oblast's Pushkin Library.

As our newspaper reported recently, staffers at this library held a rehearsal of the "presidential elections" with readers, as a result of which Boris Yeltsin secured a convincing victory in the second round. Now, as Vera Smirnova, the main organizer of the game, reports, they have "decided to give the other candidates' supporters every opportunity to identify who will really be (at the level of the game, of course) the most serious adversary for the incumbent president, and at the same time to test their organizational powers quite seriously."

The meeting was led by a politician scientist, Petr Akimov, teacher at a Magadan higher educational establishment. It followed more or less the rules of a sports match: two encounters each between two politicians chosen by lot, then a third between the winners of the "semifinal," and finally a general vote of those present on the candidates put forward by those winners.

The local Communists, having obviously counted solely on the consciousness of the electorate invited to the debate, suffered a crushing defeat in the first round of the game at the hands of Bryntsalov's team. The Communists' leader Igor Yurov "fought like a lion," but there turned out to be only very few supporters of Gennadiy Zyuganov in the room. The next encounter — the LDPR versus "Yabloko" — ended in Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's favor. But in the final he also lost, routed by Vladimir Bryntsalov. Many Zhirinovskiy supporters also gave their sympathies to the honored president of "Fereyn" in the vote.

However, a game is a game, and really it said more about organizational readiness for the elections. The results of a poll just carried out by the regional service of the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion are more serious. Its leader Boris Steblovskiy reports that out of a poll of 927 Magadan people, 20.8 percent gave their rating sympathies to Gennadiy Zyuganov, and only 14.7 percent to Boris Yeltsin. On the other hand, 28.1 percent of respondents are sure that the incumbent president will win, as against 26.4 percent who supported his main rival.

Russia: Udmurtia: 46 Percent Expected To Vote for Yeltsin

MM1306142496 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (DOM I OTECHESTVO Supplement) in Russian 13-21 Jun 96 p III

[Report by Vera Krasnova from the "Political Thermometer" feature: "Izhevsk: But We Used To Make Missiles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Udmurtia — the weapons forge — used to provide a higher living standard compared with other republics. That fact developed a unique contemplative mentality among the population: "We make missiles, the rest does not concern us."

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The inhabitants of Udmurtia used to vote primarily for those party leaders who promised to revive the military plants. But a lie is a lie whatever color you paint it. And last year's elections to the State Duma were the inevitable decline that comes before recovery from any illness. The Communists received an undisputed majority in the republic by once again playing on the charm of their "own pride." But what came of it? Enterprises where they did not pin their hopes on the return of the military order began to recover, while those that wait for money from Moscow shut down entirely. Now there have been changes in people's minds, the former inertia has given way in the republic to unprecedented activeness among the population. A positive role was played in this by the regional branch of the "Russia Is Our Home" movement. Its executive committee was the first in the country to convene under its auspices the founding conference of the Udmurtia branch of the All-Russia Movement of Public Support for Boris Yeltsin's Candidacy in the Presidential Elections. The majority of parties and associations that have joined in election propaganda have rallied around the incumbent president.

And a second feature of these elections: The myth that young people are the apolitical section of society has been dispelled in Udmurtia. As Igor Lebedev, chairman of the Izhevsk students' association, said, "we know very well that Russia's future now depends on our votes." Whole hostels of students are preparing to vote for Yeltsin in the elections. Local sociologists make these predictions: Out of the 70 percent of the population who have made a firm decision to take part in the elections, 46 percent will vote for Yeltsin and half that number for Zyuganov. After that on the ratings list come Yavlinskiy, Lebed, and Fedorov.

Russia: Yeltsin Leads Latest Polls on Presidential Elections

LD1306205596 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today is the last day on which the results of sociological surveys and polls devoted to the presidential elections can be made public. [passage omitted]

You can see how the three most popular sociological agencies of the country — the All-Russian Public Opinion Poll Center [VTsIOM], the Institute of Parliamentarian Sociology headed by N. Betaneli, and the Russian Public Opinion and Market Research (ROMIR) — assess the results of voting for the two main presidential candidates: Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov. It is not just the level of the figures but the gap between the candidates that is interesting. According to all three agencies, it constitutes about 10 percent or approximately one third of Zyuganov ratings. [video shows a diagram with photographs of Yeltsin and Zyuganov, and the following figures: VTsIOM gives Yeltsin 37 percent, the Institute of Parliamentarian Sociology gives him 40 percent, and ROMIR — 34 percent. VTsIOM gives Zyuganov 26 percent, Betaneli — 31 percent, and ROMIR — 23 percent]

As for other candidates — they have not collected even half of what the Communist leader could get. What is interesting is that different sociological agencies have different views of who will gain third place. According to VTsIOM, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Aleksandr Lebed share this place. Betaneli is confident that third place will belong to Yavlinskiy. ROMIR prefers Lebed, whereas Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will rank fifth according to all sociologists. [video shows diagram with photographs of Yavlinskiy, Lebed, Zhirinovskiy, and Fedorov, and the following figures: VTsIOM gives Yavlinskiy 7 percent of votes, Betaneli — 11 percent, and ROMIR — 7 percent; VTsIOM gives 7 percent to Lebed, Betaneli gives him 9 percent, and ROMIR — 8 percent; VTsIOM gives 6 percent to Zhirinovskiy, Betaneli gives him 5 percent, and ROMIR — 5 percent; VTsIOM gives 3 percent of votes to Fedorov, Betaneli gives him 2 percent, and ROMIR gives him 2 percent]

They were unanimous on all the other candidates — Mikhail Gorbachev, Yuriy Vlasov, Vladimir Bryntsalov, and Martin Shakkum — who will not gain more than 1 percent of the votes. [passage omitted]

Russia: 'Last Poll' Gives Zyuganov 36 Percent, Yeltsin 27 Percent

MM1306155596 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Jun 96

["Last Poll" feature by the Center for the Study of Political Culture of Russia: "Miracle Not Expected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A no-fiction electoral process is how, generalizing, you might define the preliminary results of the final poll — conducted 25 May-8 June — by the independent Center for the Study of Political Culture of Russia (headed by Doctor of Historical Sciences S.I. Vasiltsev). The study covers 46 regions of the country and around 1,100 "panel" respondents.

The Center's poll clearly shows that the correlation between the electoral forces of the two main contenders — Zyuganov and Yeltsin — as determined since the start of the election campaign (given all the inevitable

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shifts here) has not changed fundamentally. If up to 80 percent of Russians show up at the polling places 16 June the leader of the people's patriotic coalition could come out ahead of the leader of the party of power by 4:3. Around 36 percent of active voters are ready to vote for Zyuganov and only 27 percent for Yeltsin.

Among the others seeking the presidency the positions of Yavlinskiy and Lebed stand out (see diagram 1) [Diagram 1 contains the following information in the form of a bar chart]

Center for the Study of Political Culture of Russia

Russia-Wide Representative Public Opinion Poll 25 May-8 June 1996. 46 Regions. Approximately 1,100 Respondents

If the elections were held today, who would be president?

G. Zyuganov	36 percent
B. Yeltsin	27 percent
G. Yavlinskiy	13 percent
A. Lebed	10 percent
V. Zhirinovskiy	7 percent
S. Fedorov	4 percent
A. Tuleyev	1 percent
M. Gorbachev	1 percent

At the same time, taking account of the experience of the 1995 Duma elections, these candidates' electoral prospects require additional analytical interpretation. The distribution of forces around them (particularly if you are talking about Zhirinovskiy and Lebed) suggests that at the end of the day pretty substantial shifts in their supporters are possible.

As, incidentally, shifts cannot be discounted when assessing the chances of all the other candidates, including Zyuganov and Yeltsin.

Allowing for the fact that the "panel" method of sampling makes it possible to analyze not only the electoral orientations but also a whole series of other personal orientations on the part of each of the respondents, it is possible to offer the following reconstruction-prediction of the outcome of the first round of voting (see diagram 2). [Diagram 2 contains the following information in the form of a bar chart]

Center for the Study of Political Culture of Russia

Analytical Reconstruction-Prediction of the Results of the First Round of the Presidential Elections (Based on the Data From a Russia-Wide Representative Poll of Public Opinion 25 May-8 June 1996. 46 Regions. Approximately 1,100 Respondents)

G. Zyuganov	37-40 percent
B. Yeltsin	26-30 percent
G. Yavlinskiy	8-12 percent
A. Lebed	7-9 percent
V. Zhirinovskiy	8-10 percent
S. Fedorov	3-4 percent
M. Gorbachev	approx. 1 percent
Yu. Vlasov	less than 1 percent
V. Bryntsalov	approx. 0 percent
M. Shakkum	approx. 0 percent

Gennadiy Zyuganov, who has lost 1-3 percent of supporters since the Center's last poll, is quite capable of winning them back (from among admirers of A. Tuleyev and also among Russians undecided between Zyuganov and Lebed or Zyuganov and Yavlinskiy). And of scoring 37-40 percent of the votes in terms of the first-round results.

Boris Yeltsin could also lose some of his admirers. Particularly among those who have traditionally not voted but, according to the poll data, had stated a wish to vote for the current president. At the decisive moment many of them will most likely stay home after all. But Boris Nikolayevich has a very real chance of making up for these losses. And of winning over some of Yavlinskiy's "post-democrat" sympathizers, Lebed's anticommunist "strong-state" advocates, or "soft reformers" backing Svyatoslav Fedorov. The calculations testify that all these could give Yeltsin between 26 and 30 percent of the votes.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, by again displaying his famous temperament and ability to grab "power over people's minds," could possibly find himself in a position, literally at the last moment of the election campaign, to gain these 8-10 percent of voter preferences. Largely by "stripping" Lebed of them, as happened last December.

The mood pattern among than electorate promises the general and novice politician (Aleksandr Lebed) approximately 7-9 percent support.

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Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, unfortunately, could very well confirm his "renown" as a politician who shines in the ratings but has to be content with gloomy election results. Again now, on the basis of an analysis of his electorate, he can be promised 8-12 percent of the vote at best. Analysis shows that it cannot be ruled out that at the decisive moment — when standing at the ballot box — many of his sympathizers will be tempted by the prospect of casting their vote either for Yeltsin or for Lebed and Fedorov.

And, finally, Svyatoslav Fedorov. Everything testifies that he will calmly and solidly install himself at 3-4 percent of the support of the citizens who turn out to vote.

But as for the other presidential contenders' chances, they are barely discernible in the current mosaic of preelection sentiments.

So unless anything extraordinary happens in the camp of the country or the contenders' camps, the coming vote does not promise any electoral miracles for Russia.

Russia: Yeltsin Interviewed on Chechnya, Elections

LD1306215396 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1555 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by film director Eldar Ryaznov; place and date not given — recorded; from the "Man's Talk" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, I am very pleased by our meeting today. Our last meeting was about three years ago, and every time our meetings in front of the television cameras occur at very difficult and decisive moments in the history of Russia. I should say directly that I have been preparing for this meeting. Moreover, I have been preparing for it while our film crew has been conducting a kind of television opinion poll of people in the streets in various towns. I regard myself as a kind of transmission link between people, the people, and yourself. I have therefore prepared notes. It will be easier for me. I can look at them. It will be very difficult for you, but nevertheless let us try.

[Yeltsin] Okay.

[Ryazanov] Why do you want to remain president? Why? It is a frightful post involving an enormous amount of work and a terribly busy schedule. Well, what is it? Is it possible that you have a real thirst for power or find all this very much to your taste? Why is it?

[Yeltsin] It is absolutely incomprehensible from the human viewpoint. At the human level I do not want it. I had no wish for this, and I pondered on it for about six months — half a year. I was in torment. From one point of view, I should like to be outdoors enjoying nature, as we are here at present — resting and enjoying myself with the family and a young grandson, who is almost nine months old. That is to say, living a normal human life, which I have never had up to now. Perhaps, I did right at the beginning. Yes, my student days were fun and it was a joy to be alive, although the grant was not enough. Afterwards all the work in the production sphere and then the party work, and this work now is all simply torture. It is simply torment. It is constant criticism of me on all sides. It is constant threats, and so on and so forth.

[Ryazanov] So you would like the life of a private individual.

[Yeltsin] I have had no lust for power. I do not know, perhaps I was born like that. Perhaps I was. I do not enjoy the very fact of being in power, giving orders, and so on. No. On the other hand, during the Duma elections I saw the balance of forces and I started wondering what could happen next. The Communists came to power in the Duma. They were going to turn the Duma into their presidential election headquarters. They would crank up their machine, as usual, to full power to elect a Communist president. When I thought about the consequences, about what would happen... [pauses] I do not want to go into details because this is very frightening. It is frightening for us all, for our children and grandchildren. It is just frightening.

[Ryazanov] Russia would be forced back into the past.

[Yeltsin] Russia as such, as a state, would collapse. Not to mention the loss of prestige in the world. Nothing. This is the second option. The first one is to live a good and normal life, the second is to struggle, work hard for 18 to 20 hours, but to continue the reforms and see them through because I have started them. Just look how unfortunate Russia is. Peter the Great did not complete his reforms, Catherine the Great did not complete her reforms, Alexander II did not complete his reforms, Petr Stolypin [Russian prime minister during 1906-1911] did not complete his reforms. So am I or am I not to complete the reforms?

[Ryazanov] Tell me, Boris Nikolayevich, have you ever felt that you have had enough of the constant need to fight? Has the thought of sending them all to hell ever occurred to you?

[Yeltsin] I felt like that just before those six months. Then I realized what this could lead to — if I step down, if the Communists come to power. Therefore, taking into account that I am still physically strong...

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[Ryazanov, interrupting] Are you still playing tennis?

[Yeltsin] I have no time at all because I am in a different town every day. In short, if I can withstand such pressure — so many working hours every day...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] How much do you sleep?

[Yeltsin] Four hours.

[Ryazanov] Not much.

[Yeltsin] No.

[Ryazanov] Is this enough for you? Do you feel...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] No, of course this is not enough for me. I have a constant feeling of fatigue.

[Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, the situation is very difficult at the moment. You, Russia, and all of us have been badly harmed by the Chechen war — and it is the Chechen war you are blamed mostly for. We cannot dodge this issue, all the more so as it is a sore point with our society, not to mention the fact that it is the most bungled war in Russia's history. Let us talk about how this happened.

[Yeltsin] Let us talk.

[Ryazanov] Who personally... [pauses] You are the supreme commander in chief, are you not? Who gave the order to start the war, to invade Chechnya? How did this happen? Who gave the order?

[Yeltsin] I did.

[Ryazanov] You? So, tell us why and how?

[Yeltsin] We have never waged the war against the Chechen people. No way. We have always stressed that we are not fighting against the Chechen people. We are fighting against that part of it which is referred to as rebels or bandit formations. Second, they had simply destroyed the republic. The Dudayevites were carrying out genocide of the people — with Dudayev's help. This was genocide of the Chechen people on their own territory. Was it really possible to tolerate such a thing any longer? They were forced to put up with this through fear. They put up with it because murders were being committed. Russia's integrity and unity are laid down in the Constitution, and the president is the guarantor. In line with the Constitution, the rebellion had to be crushed with the use of power. We had to crush it with the use of force, because our numerous proposals to hold talks and so on received no response. There was no response to them.

[Ryazanov] I agree with you that every federal government has the right to crush a separatist rebellion. But, excuse me, that was not the way to do it, I think.

[Yeltsin] This is another matter.

[Ryazanov] It should have been done quickly and in style. Just like the Americans did in Panama.

[Yeltsin] They have forgotten.

[Ryazanov] But whose fault is it that the Army has forgotten how to fight? The Army must always be in a state of combat readiness. After all, anything may happen. The Army is the salt and pride of the people and the defense of the state

[Yeltsin] I understand that. That is why army reform is needed. In my view, reform is being implemented poorly, even very poorly, while the military believe that no, reform is being implemented, after all. In actual fact, of course, there is no sign of it. No reform is being implemented. Something must be done about it.

[Ryazanov] Very many people are concerned over the following issue: A number of ministers, especially power ministers, hold their posts not thanks to their capacities and suitability but rather because you believe that they are devoted to you personally.

[Yeltsin] Is it so bad when a minister is devoted to the president?

[Ryazanov] No, but it is important to have a gifted person who is, at the same time, devoted to the president.

[Yeltsin] Well, it has been impossible so far to find a gifted minister for each post. I have met perhaps hundreds of military officers, military commanders, and only very few said that the minister should be replaced, whereas culture and creative figures believe indeed that Grachev alone is to blame.

[Ryazanov] Many people are bewildered by your obstinate striving and desire to protect Pavel Sergeyevich [Grachev], bewildered, you see.

[Yeltsin] On the contrary, on the contrary.

[Ryazanov] I am a civilian but I feel sorry for our great power.

[Yeltsin] I take your hint.

[Ryazanov] I am not hinting at anything, God forbid!

[Yeltsin] Yes you are!

[Ryazanov] I am not hinting at anything, it is your problem, Boris Nikolayevich.

[Yeltsin] I am pondering over the issue.

[Ryazanov] Well, carry on pondering but please hurry up. Nevertheless, Boris Nikolayevich, I would like to

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tell you the following: You see, after all, those lads who have died will not come back and their mothers will not find consolation. Many peaceful civilians have died on both sides. Although Russians are closer to me by blood, as it were, the Chechens are our countrymen too, and I am making no distinction here. In my view, it was your enormous mistake, you see, and this should be admitted. From the point of view of the state you were right but from the human point of view?

[Yeltsin] Do you think that I am impervious to this pain, the pain of each mother and each family where a member has died?

[Ryazanov] No, I believe that you feel this pain but perhaps not sharply enough, I do not know. I am only speaking frankly with you.

[Yeltsin] What do you mean by not sharply enough? I feel it day and night. It is perhaps my greatest pain over all these years.

Probably it was a mistake. I agonized so much over this while I thought things over. As the guarantor of the Constitution I cannot allow Russia to be dismembered, to be disunited. I cannot do this. At the same time, my heart aches for every single individual who has died, for every soldier. I realize that his mother's, his family's heart also aches. The same applies to me. That is the greatest difficulty, that is the greatest burden: taking such decisions when, on the one hand, it has to be done. It has to be done. Otherwise, Russia would collapse, and that would be the end of it. On the other hand, people are dying. That is, it is not a contradiction, it is a kind of dialectic of life. For me it is the most difficult and terrible thing. The most terrible thing. It causes sleepless nights, it...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] It makes you want to redo things, to change your mind.

[Yeltsin] Yes, yes.

[Ryazanov] But nothing comes of it.

[Yeltsin] Nobody can advise you on this. Somebody might advise me, for instance, to withdraw the entire army from Chechnya immediately, but I realize what this would lead to. Everybody there would be slaughtered. I realize this cannot be done.

[Ryazanov] This just shows how heavy Monomakh's cap [ancient crown of Russian rulers] is, does it not?

[Yeltsin] Precisely, you are quite right. These have been the hardest periods of my life. If you ask me what has been the hardest part of my life, I can tell you that this has been the hardest.

[Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, the situation is like this. Our conversation is perhaps a hard-hitting and uncompromising one. Therefore, I am tormenting and torturing you with questions that are in very many people's minds. That really has to be remembered, I think. For example, you yourself said that the democrats have no choice. In the end they will all come and vote for me. In fact a whole lot of people do intend to vote for you merely because, compared with Zyuganov, you are the lesser evil. However, that is a sad thing to have to say. One would prefer to vote for good and not for the lesser evil. Does it not hurt you? You have probably heard this point of view, encountered it.

[Yeltsin] Well yes, well first of all, perhaps my words could have been better chosen.

[Ryazanov] Perhaps. But you speak as President, and your every word, gesture and grimace is very...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] I know, I know, but on the other hand, you see, the democrats are in a muddle and do not know who to vote for or where to go. In the end...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] They do know. They all know that they have to vote for you so that the Communists do not get a chance.

[Yeltsin] That is what I am saying. In the end, having thought it out properly... [pauses] Why did Yegor Gaydar arrive at this conclusion, and why did other prominent democrats arrive at it as well? Because at first they wanted to bring all the democrats together, but unfortunately that did not work out. After thorough analysis and study of public opinion, they realized they could not do it and that after all they had to support one person. They have nobody stronger than me. So they started supporting me.

[Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, democrat is a splendid word but it has become almost a swear word lately, because when the democrats came to power many of them turned out to be rogues or scoundrels, venal or embezzling public funds. I am very pleased to note that even your worst enemies have never accused you of being like that. Thank God. But there is no smoke without fire as regards those who surround you. What is annoying is that you fought against privilege and then started bringing in your own favorites.

[Yeltsin] Well, you cannot divide criminals into democrats and non-democrats. They do not fit into categories like that. They are simply criminals.

[Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, you are a man of huge capabilities and huge potential, huge energy. Over the past five years of your presidency I have sometimes thought you were in a kind of slumber. However, in the

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past three months, since the start of the campaign, you look as if you have received an electric charge. You have started leading an incredibly active life, issuing very progressive edicts, and making all the right moves. You have been mobile and active. On the other hand, I have been thinking, surely all this mad — in the good sense of the word — energy has not suddenly appeared because there is an election campaign and votes have to be won? Why pay off wage arrears with such sound and fury? I do not understand why you need to protect the deceived investors. To get more votes? I just want to understand one thing: Your burst of energy, which I like and approve very much, should have been there for the last five years. You should have lived this way during the whole period of your presidency.

[Yeltsin] One cannot live this way.

[Ryazanov] No, one cannot live this way.

[Yeltsin] It was necessary to give the government some breathing space to find out how to work, so that it would have been possible either to dismiss the government or make it work properly — exactly this way, exactly from dawn till dusk. Is it really possible for a man to work 20 hours and sleep four hours for five, eight, or ten years? You do not mean to say so!

[Ryazanov] But, Boris Nikolayevich, it is up to you to select personnel. So it is necessary to select those who you trust, those who will carry out your orders.

[Yeltsin] There should be constant reshuffles in personnel, and the personnel is being reshuffled — slowly but, nevertheless, reshuffles are under way. More talented people stay, less talented people go. They go.

[Ryazanov] Those who do not carry out orders should be punished then.

[Yeltsin] They are being punished, but we do not report every one who has been punished. That is bad, of course. We tell people. But we must also reveal what he has been sacked for, what he has been brought to book for. We must speak about this...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] Of course, you must.

[Yeltsin] And this does not mean I am spineless. Only someone who has no idea about me can say I am spineless.

[Ryazanov] Incidentally, tell me about your personality. What kind of person are you? Are you hot-tempered, or stubborn...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] Me? I am tough.

[Ryazanov] Tough.

[Yeltsin] But!

[Ryazanov] But? You cannot describe someone's personality by one word, can you?

[Yeltsin] Of course not — tough, strong-willed...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] Stubborn.

[Yeltsin] Purposeful...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] Persistent.

[Yeltsin] Persistent, not stubborn.

[Ryazanov] Well?

[Yeltsin] At the same time I do not bear grudges.

[Ryazanov] Are you inclined to forgive people?

[Yeltsin] I am more inclined to forgive than to punish.

[Ryazanov] I see. Boris Nikolayevich, do you know any funny joke about yourself?

[Yeltsin] About myself?

[Ryazanov] About yourself, yes. I cannot believe no one tells you jokes. Do you want...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] I do not know. I think there are no jokes about me.

[Ryazanov] Do you want me to tell you one?

[Yeltsin] If such a joke exists, tell me.

[Ryazanov] An aide comes to you after the elections and says: Boris Nikolayevich, I have two pieces of news for you, one bad and the other good. Do you know the story?

[Yeltsin] No.

[Ryazanov] Which should I give you first? Well, you tell him to start with the bad one. He says that Zyuganov got 65 percent of the votes in the elections. What is the good news? You have got 85 percent. [Both laugh] And you thought there were no jokes about you!

Are you morally prepared to accept a possible defeat? What will you do if you lose the elections?

[Yeltsin] No, I am not prepared. Today, now, I am already not prepared. Six month ago I was prepared to retire but now that I have plunged into the contest I am not prepared.

[Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, let us imagine that you failed to get enough votes and a representative of the Communist Party becomes president. What will happen in the country? You have said somewhere that a civil war would break out. Who will fight against whom then? What will happen?

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[Yeltsin] Well, that is clear. Let us assume that half of the country today supports the Communists and the other half are their opponents. So they will fight it out between themselves.

[Ryazanov] So we will have the Reds and the Whites [opposing sides in Russian civil war] again?

[Yeltsin] Yes, as has been said, everything will start all over again.

[Ryazanov] Poverty again?

[Yeltsin] Absolutely true. It will start again because each republic will start to defend its independence and freedom, independence from Russia, that is what they will defend. But now Russia, thank God, is single and indivisible, it is such together with Chechnya and that is something I am confident of after my trip over there and meetings with people. It is single and indivisible. But it will not stay that way. It will be broken up and upturned.

[Ryazanov] What stand will the Army take in your view? It is a terrible thing to discuss though.

[Yeltsin] The Army will split up too.

[Ryazanov] Will split up too. It is a dismal prospect.

[Yeltsin] Dismal indeed.

[Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, nevertheless, what new things will you do if you become president, or what will you continue that you already started?

[Yeltsin] Protection for the individual, family, and Russian statehood. There are three main tenets. These are living standards...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] Freedom.

[Yeltsin] Protection from crime, and freedom. In other words, they are the ability to live as you want. This can be done in four years.

[Ryazanov] What is more important for you: Is the state or the individual the priority?

[Yeltsin] The individual, which has never been the case in this country.

[Ryazanov] Never. The state has always been the priority in this country.

[Yeltsin] That has always been the problem. Give us more metals, give us more iron, give us more wood, more this or that, and so on. Never how to protect the disabled, how to protect the family, and so on. Now, protection of the less well-off and of people on small incomes takes up a special section of the state and presidential policy program. It stands out because of the word presidential. These priorities include the social sphere: the less well-off, the poor, those who are unsure of themselves, those who really are suffering, and so on and so forth. These are the people whom the state should help and whom I am sure I can help. The reforms will be seen through to the end, to the end. We have passed two stages of reform. We are now entering the third stage, which is investment — investment in the economy, both domestic and foreign. This is what we are short of now. Our industrial output is not growing because of inadequate investment. Soon investment will come through — and it is inadequate at the moment only because 16 June is approaching.

[Ryazanov] Everything is in suspended animation at the moment.

[Yeltsin] On 16 June either we will enter the great marketplace, or it and all the benefits that Russia now enjoys will be totally lost.

[Ryazanov] I can see that.

[Yeltsin] This is why I am saying that the third stage — investment — will give Russia a powerful shot in the arm. Powerful in the sense of development of industry, agriculture, and people's material well-being. A powerful shot in the arm, and it will happen literally in the coming two years. We have already had 3-percent monthly growth this year. That has never happened before. We have got inflation at 2 or 3 percent. That is also never been the case before. Remember that we started off with 1,200 percent inflation. Prices were increasing several-fold every day.

[Ryazanov] I can remember all that.

[Yeltsin] That will not happen now. It will not happen. In the past five years we have not let ourselves print a single ruble, thank God, and we will not print them. That is a huge achievement. There used to be a discrepancy of 600 or 800 billion rubles between the money supply and the commodity supply. That was how far the money supply was ahead. So the shelves were empty. Price liberalization and the beginning of the reforms cut this gordian knot. There is, of course, a degree of stratification in society, in the sense of incomes. But we are planning measures to enable people who are finding it hard now — meaning pensioners, the disabled, large families...

[Ryaznov, interrupting] And people who simply have not coped.

[Yeltsin] There are some like that, yes. The state should help. The president should help. And I will help them.

[Ryazanov] There ought to be a rapid-response team, it seems to me.

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[Yeltsin] Right. In historical terms we have responded quickly, even if it was over a period of years. It seems quick to us.

[Ryazanov] But people only live once. They do not want to lose it, you know.

[Yeltsin] Of course they do not. I decreed an end to military conscription from spring in the year 2000. Is that quick enough for you? There will only be service under contract.

[Ryazanov] Splendid.

[Yeltsin] But it is still four years.

[Ryazanov] I understand, because...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] By your logic that is a long time.

[Ryazanov] No, because it has to be prepared, I understand that.

[Ryazanov] You see, there are issues that have to be prepared for, which need certain amounts of money to be spent every year. This money needs to be spent, so that we can arrive at spring in the year 2000 with a fully professional army staffed by volunteers. Then we will not need conscription any more. We will solve a whole pile of problems. For students and everyone else this is...

[Ryazanov, interrupting] I am all for it.

[Yeltsin] It will solve a whole pile of problems. Everyone is for it, especially, of course, mothers who have 14-year-olds and younger.

Of course, we need to look forward now, including to those issues that might not even require a lot of expenditure but have to be foreseen today. We must look forward to them now, so that we can spend two years working on them.

[Ryazanov] You are on the television quite often now in connection with the election campaign. However, before the campaign you sometimes dropped out of view for long periods. Why can you not make a habit of... [pauses] We talked about this last time as well. I know that Clinton speaks once a week, and our Luzhkov appears on the television and answers viewers' questions. Why ca you not be in direct contact with the people, so that they can phone in with their questions? You could explain...

[Yeltsin] Yes, yes, yes.

[Ryazanov] Yes?

[Yeltsin] Yes.

[Ryazanov] We will do it?

[Yeltsin] Yes.

[Ryazanov] If you win the election, what happens next? What specific action will you take, or will there be a grand celebration with awards, feasting, and fireworks, after which everything gradually... [pauses] What is most frightening of all, and this is something I've noticed: When there is danger you mobilize, but when the danger is past there is a slackening off, pardon the word. Suppose you win the elections. What happens next? Will you have to carry on with this terrible way of living, day in and day out?

[Yeltsin] I could at least take a week's break.

[Ryazanov] We will give you a week. And after that?

[Yeltsin] Only a week?

[Ryazanov] Oh no, or God knows what will start going on in this country.

[Yeltsin] I have issued I think about 40 edicts that specifically concern my policy program and its implementation, its implementation after the elections. Right now, of course, I am not going to make the mistake of letting these edicts not be put into effect. I will take very tough measures and keep doing so all the time, so that everyone will know if a certain person or group of persons is to blame for a particular edict not being put into effect, and so that these persons will be punished in such a way that everyone knows about it.

[Ryazanov] You are saying that to me?

[Yeltsin] I am saying it for myself.

[Ryazanov, laughing] I see. I expect a lot of people are watching. What would like to say to them, in person?

[Yeltsin] This is what I would like to say. Dear friends, people of Russia. June 16 is a fateful day for Russia. June 16 could be the day on which Russia loses everything, even the little that it has acquired over the past five years. On 16 June, Russia could be totally deprived of reform. You could be deprived of the freedoms that you have. Do the right thing. For yourselves, your children, your grandchildren, all Russia, and its future and its authority in this world.

[Ryazanov] Boris Nikolayevich, I would simply like to wish you victory, victory, and victory.

[Yeltsin] Thank you.

[Ryazanov] Thank you.

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Russia: Yeltsin Addresses St. Petersburg Winter Palace Campaign Rally

LD1306151596 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1335 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Live relay from Yeltsin campaign rally at St. Petersburg's Winter Palace Square]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Vladimir Yakovlev, governor of St. Petersburg] Dear residents of St Petersburg: We are welcoming Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin at the historic Palace Square today. Boris Nikolayevich and I have just signed a treaty on the demarcation of powers between the city and the center, the treaty that the residents of St. Petersburg have been awaiting for many years. This document gives us big rights. At the same time, it puts great responsibility on us, responsibility on the city and its residents, responsibility on our citizens and elderly people, on the future and on our children and grandchildren. Responsibility to our parks, buildings, gardens, and theaters.

Boris Nikolayevich supports this initiative and we are confident that on 16 June, you will raise your loud voices and your hands in support of Boris Nikolayevich. We supported Boris Nikolayevich five years ago. We supported him in the difficult year 1991 and in the difficult month of October 1993. We believe that the residents of St. Petersburg will support him on 16 June 1996.

I am confident that when you go to cast your votes, you will make the right choice. Boris Nikolayevich signed several documents today. The first amount of money has already been allocated on the construction of the subway. The law on veterans will be implemented in full. There will be support for students, the military, and the defense industry.

Our path today is to continue the reforms. Our path today is toward freedom, democracy, and accord. Yeltsin is our president! Hurrah! [Video shows Yeltsin coming to microphone]

[Yeltsin] Dear St. Petersburgers, dear friends: I am very glad to meet you again, to meet St. Petersburg again, Russia's northern capital. Every time I come to see you, I feel pride in our fathers and sons, in Russia. The city of Peter is the history of Russia personified—a Russia that is looking to the future.

But how much has your city had to endure. Devastating repressions, the inhuman suffering of the siege, and the difficulties of the last few years, too—it all affected you. But there is no trial that can break the people of Peter. All of Russia knows that. All the world knows that. Petersburg was and will be a stronghold of the new, free Russia.

In my hardest moments, I knew that the people of Peter would not let me down, and they have always backed me. I felt that. Thank you. We were always together. We always understood each other. May that continue.

On 16 June, we have to decide the fate of Russia for many years. I hope that Petersburg will choose to move forward—forward to a life of prosperity, to a free and flourishing Russia.

We know what the past was. For many years, Palace Square was a symbol of the October Revolution. The city remembers its history. It is the life and fate of our fatherland. What was, was. The revolution started here in St. Petersburg, but Russia does not need revolutions anymore. That is enough for upheavals in our century! May Russia enter the new century as a country of peace and harmony, goodness and justice, a country with a great culture. You can count on me.

There are only two days left before the presidential election. I believe that on 16 June, we will vote for a free Russia, for a worthy guarantee of her future because we are a great people, a great country. Long live the glorious City of Peter! We will win together! [Video shows Yeltsin leaving stage; live broadcast continues for 25 minutes as rock band "Voskresenye" takes the stage]

Russia: Yeltsin Shown Campaigning in St. Petersburg

LD1306142696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president has arrived in St. Petersburg from Moscow. This is his fifth visit to the northern capital. Boris Yeltsin will only spend a few hours in the city, although his program is a very crowded one. In Victory Square, the president laid flowers at the memorial to the defenders of Leningrad and paid tribute to the memory of the soldiers and people of Leningrad who died during the harsh blockade of the city. [video shows Yeltsin laying flowers at memorial]

[Correspondent Kokko] Boris Nikolayevich met with the people of the city in order to find out which problems cause most trouble to the people of St. Petersburg. It turns out that what people want most is law and order in the country. There were also complaints at delays in the payment of wages. Boris Yeltsin wished success to Vladimir Yakovlev, the new governor of St. Petersburg. [video shows Yeltsin shaking hands with crowd of people]

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[Begin Yeltsin recording] Do you support me? [people shout assent] If you support me, then there will be law and order and everything will be OK in St. Petersburg. [end recording]

[Correspondent Zenin] [video shows Yeltsin being interviewed at the airport] The questions to the president were roughly the same as before. Most of them have already been solved by Boris Yeltsin, while some remain still open. Chechnya: the conflict has been halted, but problems remain; the main problem of those which the people of Chechnya have to solve today is that of holding the presidential elections in the republic.

At St. Petersburg's Pulkovo airport, Boris Yeltsin said he has no intention of influencing the leadership of the republic in any way in solving this question.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] A component of the federation itself determines when it elects its bodies of legislative power, and their council, the supreme assembly, decides when to hold them, or when not to hold them. But although not all problems have been completely solved, I think the main thing is that everything will be OK, and there will be a peaceful outcome. [end recording] [video shows Yeltsin waving to crowds and shaking hands with officials]

[Announcer] The head of state plans to meet with Vladimir Yakovlev, the city's new governor, and then he will visit the Hermitage. In St. George's Hall of the Winter Palace, he will sign two treaties on the demarcation of powers between St. Petersburg and the federal center and Leningrad region. In the evening, the president will take part in a rally on Palace Square.

Russia: Yeltsin Addresses Moscow Citizens

LD1306165596 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1545 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Address by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the citizens of Moscow and Moscow Region; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Muscovites, dear inhabitants of Moscow Region. I address my words to each and every family. I ask you to put your tasks aside for a few minutes. I want to have a chat with you.

When dozens of my electoral trips round the country came to an end, I thought I had said it all. However, having pondered things over, I now understand that the crucial importance of the present time demands that we meet again, via radio waves, at least.

We are all very different and we all perceive things differently. Some people have failed to understand what is going on, while others refuse to come to terms with it.

All I want to say is this: Do not harden your hearts. Do not lose heart, for you can accomplish so much that is good and you have already accomplished things, for, after all, the country has changed completely and our life has changed completely, too.

I understand very well that you have many questions to ask me. I am not accustomed to evading answers. However, today I want to change places with you and to ask you how we are going to live in the future. As for me, I have made my choice.

I know that to turn back is not simply dangerous, but mortally dangerous. Even the rock-like Russia will not withstand such an upheaval.

I know that we have no right to lose what has been made by our own hands over the past five years, things we no longer conceive our fate without, such as the right to live and speak freely, to choose freely and without fear everything, including you, president.

I believe that we will restore Russia. Let me mention the main aspect here — the highest value is the individual, his happiness, his health and prosperity.

That is indeed why I am talking about choice to you. I am saying this to you not as the head of state, but as head of my family. My family numbers 10 people. It is a family like most of you have, a large and harmonious family. Your concerns, problems, and fears are understandable to me and I feel close to them. I experience them not as a mere official duty, but with the heart of a father, husband, grandfather, the heart of a man who was born and brought up deep in the Russian hinterland, in the countryside, a man who has never severed his ties with the countryside, because our roots and origins are to be found there.

It was there that, ever since my childhood, I have been taught to work honestly and conscientiously, and I do work in this manner, too, honestly and responsibly.

This gives me the right to chat with you today without dissembling, or being ashamed before my children or grandchildren. It also gives me my confidence, strength and belief, belief in you, in Russia and her future. We will not be choosing a president on 16 June, but our country's future.

I understand that choice is always difficult. If you have doubts, if you have nothing on which to base your decision, let me advise you to do what I myself do from time to time: Ask your children. As you know, they speak the truth. They will not pretend or lie.

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If you have decided firmly not to let our cause down, if you believe in it right to the very end, tell this to your children, for your weighty and wise words will benefit you and people will be grateful to you, without fail.

I wish harmony, love and happiness to your families, in the warmth of your home hearths because it is with the family that the fatherland begins.

Russia: Zhirinovskiy Discusses LDPR, Political Future

964F2437A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 6 Jun 96 p 2

[Transcript of a meeting between Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and political observers from VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK and MOLODAYA SIBIR; prepared by Vladimir Kuzmenkin; place and date not given: "The Leader of the LDPR Is Prepared To Create a Coalition, But... Vladimir Zhirinovskiy: 'I Speak the Truth'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the half-hour allotted by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy for a meeting with the press, it seems he managed to talk about everything. But it is a thankless undertaking to translate onto paper what is said by Vladimir Volfovich. One has to listen to it... On the other hand, if you try to read all that is related further in Zhirinovskiy's voice, the effect should be... After a meeting with the leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] at the editorial offices of MOLODAYA SIBIR, where he was tormented by those same VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK and MOLODAYA SIBIR political observers as Vladimir Shumeyko had been a week earlier, one gets the impression that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy does not intend to lose at the elections, however things may fall out. And it is not so important that he will not become president...

Knowing Vladimir Volfovich's energy and inventiveness, one may suppose that is the way it will in fact be.

The meeting itself took place, as it is customary to say, in a warm and friendly atmosphere, and in conclusion Zhirinovskiy expressed this wish: "Do not give in to the temptation to lie. One must write the truth, give veracious information, criticize! For God's sake... I am for a free press, but give your opponents whom you are criticizing an opportunity to speak. Then everything will be fine." Well, the conversation started with the question whether Zhirinovskiy is really prepared to unite with Zyuganov. The leader of the LDPR answered without thinking:

[Zhirinovskiy] The voters want a change in course, but who can change the course? Our party and I have already been talking about this for six years. There are polls that are conducted by the special services. Bryansk is a "Red" city, the Communists are there: Zyuganov—30 percent, Zhirinovskiy—16 percent, Yeltsin—6 percent. Krasnodar: Zyuganov and I are ahead, behind is Lebed, and lower down is Yeltsin. And if you take it across the entire country, then it turns out that Zyuganov has 25-40 percent, I have from 15 percent to 29 percent, and Yeltsin has from 7-8 percent to 10 percent. The official ratings, given by Independent Television, "Itogi," and Russian Television, are a lie. A false opinion is being created.

...I am prepared for victory, and I am counting on it. I agree that 25 percent could be for Zyuganov. If they are—that is the truth, I know about that today. But if they say: Yeltsin has 25 percent and 10 percent are for me, that is a lie, cheating! Then whom should I be with? With those who are at least more honest... I am not saying that I want to unite with Zyuganov; I do not want to tolerate tyranny. That is, if Zyuganov would go for a broad coalition, then that would not be the coming to power of a Communist president. If he is president, and I am the chairman of the government, then the politics will be different...

[Question] Is a Zyuganov victory possible?

[Zhirinovskiy] A Zyuganov victory is possible, if only I unite with him. He will not win alone. Because if he refuses me, and Yeltsin too, I will urge my supporters to vote against them both. My votes—millions of votes—will be very necessary.

[Question] Suppose that you and Zyuganov went into the second round... Would you have any chance for victory?

[Zhirinovskiy] If Yeltsin loses, then he will get rid of everyone who brought him to that situation: Burbulis, Shakhray, and Chubays, and will bring back the patriotically inclined grouping (Korzhakov, Barsukov, Soskovets). And then they will say: Well, what is there left to do, we lost, but there will be a choice between Zhirinovskiy and Zyuganov. I am less dangerous for them, as I am for businessmen and the private sector. Then there will be the possibility of concentrating all the forces. I can beat Zyuganov on 7 July. My victory over Zyuganov is possible within 1 percent.

[Question] Many people believe that Zyuganov is a screen, behind which an unknown is standing. Who is standing behind him?

[Zhirinovskiy] In principle, Lukyanov, Varennikov, Makashov, Starodubtsev, Ilyukhin, Ryzhkov, and Goryachev have great significance there. There is a strong orthodox wing there. Zyuganov tries to be more of a social-democrat. This is harder for him to manage:

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The party is in the process of collapsing... I have no personal relations with him. I do not enter into negotiations with any of them. I simply issue proposals: that it is necessary to create a coalition, in order to avoid bloodshed. A broad one or a narrow one...

[Question] And have you had negotiations with Yeltsin?

[Zhirinovskiy] There have been no negotiations. I have not held negotiations with anyone. In order to make June safe, it is necessary to a forge a broad coalition. I want to be clean before the voters... That it is possible to avert civil war and exchanges of gunfire in Moscow that will begin in June, as soon as it is announced that Yeltsin has won. Skirmishing will certainly begin...

[Question] Are you prepared to be a minister of Yeltsin's?

[Zhirinovskiy] I do not need a post; it is important to me to change course. If he changes course and we can live better, we are prepared to participate. And that would strengthen his position. But if the course remains as before, then to take their filth upon myself... I do not need that!

[Question] Your relations with the Moscow grouping and with the mayor?

[Zhirinovskiy] None. I am the cleanest of them all; I have no relations either with the Moscow ones or with the southern ones, or with the foreign ones. My votes are purely the votes of my supporters, without falsification, without upward distortion. I have no connections with anyone. Just now, Kryuchkov has published a two-volume edition of his memoirs, "Personal Business." And there he writes a whole page about me. He was the chairman of the KGB. He knows everything. And he reports that I had no relationship with them.

[Question] You speak of the people's consciousness. What do you think—have our people matured sufficiently to make the right decision?

[Zhirinovskiy] Many people are already seeing the light. I have traveled around the country, and I sense that the people do not want to vote for either Yeltsin or Zyuganov. Now, five years ago, there was a "Yes" for Yeltsin... For Zyuganov—a few old ladies standing there, who found it very pleasant when I did not attack him. But for there to be any all-Russian call "for Yeltsin" or "for Zyuganov"... There is none of that anywhere. So the situation is changing. It is changing. I like that...

Everything is changing. Zyuganov is no Lenin, and he is no Stalin, and I, so to speak, am no left-wing Social-Revolutionary. It is a different epoch now. Zyuganov cannot be purely a second Gorbachev, either. He might be a weak version, but 100 percent he cannot be.

[Question] They say that Bryntsalov is a second Zhirinovskiy. Won't he draw votes away from you?

[Zhirinovskiy] We do not draw votes away from anyone; that is what the choice is for—everyone has his own niche. Lebed takes votes away from me, and Yavlinskiy and Fedorov, let us say, from Yeltsin. One can turn that however one likes...

How in the world can Bryntsalov draw votes away from me, when I have the poor folks! The poor and honest ones! Where are they getting their billions... Who is drawing votes away from me? No one is drawing votes away from me, because I have the patriots who are real patriots. And what is Lebed's patriotism? He lost in Afghanistan, he lost in the Dniester region, he took his own shoulder boards off himself, and the Congress of Russian Communities lost in December. He has suffered defeat everywhere.

[Question] But after all, the LDPR also has many supporters among the "new Russians."

[Zhirinovskiy] Yes. They are also suffering. They are not being allowed to conduct their business by the southern mafia, and the foreigners. They expect protection from the state. I am for private initiative developing in all directions, for God's sake.

[Question] Vladimir Volfovich, tell me, have you ever pronounced the word "unambiguous"?

[Zhirinovskiy] Never. You hear... There is another falsehood for you. I never in my life used that word... I do not even like it, because there is no such thing as unambiguousness in life. One cannot unambiguously... What unambiguousness?

[Question] All Russian rulers with names ending in "skiy," for example, Shuyskiy, Kerenskiy, somehow have not been very successful.

[Zhirinovskiy] Well, what can you do...

[Question] Are you prepared to break this trend?

[Zhirinovskiy] Of course, of course. But then, we have had great composers ending in "skiy": Tchaikovskiy, Musorgskiy; and writers— Dostoyevskiy, and Mayakovskiy, the poet. So that is the kind of thing... Perhaps it did end badly, but you know: Ulyanov—Lenin... But Ulyanov the film actor, it seems that it worked out all right for him.

I am not saying that everything good should focus in on me. There are no ideal people. I know my deficiencies, and I do not think that a last name ending in "skiy"

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can somehow end badly. I have a program, a goal: We are going efficiently. Let the voters decide. He is not looking at that now: "skiy" or not "skiy." Why, some kind of Shakkum has appeared! What is that? What is that—Shakkum? What does it mean... Something Lyutsianovich... Martin Lyutsianovich... That is a lot stranger.

[Question] And you do not plan on changing the name of the party?

[Zhirinovskiy] Well, people have already gotten used to it. Although the sound of the word "liberal" in Russia has a negative nuance to it. "Democrat" too... If I had to create a party now, I would not name it that. Neither liberal nor democratic... It would be something closer to the people, so to speak... Popular-republican—something in that vein. [end Zhirinovskiy]

In conclusion, Vladimir Volfovich elucidated what politics is:

[Zhirinovskiy] Politics is like war. Your words are the shots. You have to know how to protect yourself and know how to attack. In the whole world, politics is basically lies and scandals. In politics there is no such thing as a normal situation. Politics is deceiving! How to trick the voter!... The majority do it this way, but a niche remains where it is possible to speak the truth. Against the backdrop of these liars, I speak the truth. That allows me to gain sympathy.

Russia: Candidates Answer Election Questions

MM1306142696 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jun 96 p 3

[Unattributed feature under the "The Keys to the Kremlin. Three Days Before the Election Contenders Respond to a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Questionnaire" rubric: "Eleven Men on the President's Chest. Who Has the Best Chance? Yo, Ho, Ho and You Need a Bottle of Rum To Work It Out"]

[FBIS Translated Text] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's "Status" sociological center requested all candidates for Russian president to participate in our poll. We received replies from nine of the 11 contenders for the presidency. For various reasons only the favorite in the election race — the current president — and clear outsider Yuriy Vlasov did not respond.

The Seven Questions to the Candidates

1. In your view, what percentage of the vote will you probably get in the first round?

2. What, in your view, is the probability of rigging of the vote count in these elections?

3. Will the elections take place on schedule?

4. Do you agree with the assertion by some sociological centers that only two candidates — B.N. Yeltsin and G.A. Zyuganov — have a realistic chance of getting into the second round?

5. If you win the election and become president of Russia what do you propose to do first?

6. In your view, what changes which have occurred during the years of reform would voters refuse to give up?

7. The view that the election results could complicate the political situation in the country and cause even greater division in society is often expressed today. Do you agree with this view and what might you propose to avert this?

Zyuganov:

1. Enough to ensure success for the bloc of people's patriotic forces.

2. There is a great temptation for the powers that be to adjust the results of the expression of Russian citizens' will. To prevent this happening we will send our observers to all 93,000 polling places.

3. I reckon they will take place. On 16 June at least.

4. Boris Nikolayevich still has to fight Zhirinovskiy, Lebed, and Yavlinskiy for second place. And his chances in this fight do not look too brilliant.

5. What the law prescribes — I will swear an oath of allegiance to the people and the fatherland.

6. The overwhelming majority of Russians do not agree that the Yeltsin-style reforms should continue. If there is anything else they will not give up it is their desire to stand tall and declare their flouted rights at the top of their voice.

7. If we win there will be no division in society. All this talk that the Communists will allegedly bring people out into the street and are training combat detachments is pure fabrication by Yeltsin's analysts. There is a Russian proverb: A guilty man always gives himself away. Russians will accept the election results much more calmly that our main opponents. So no extraordinary measures will be required, I believe.

Yavlinskiy:

1. My voters are the people who want to change what we have now without returning to the past. Today such people are in the majority.

2. This is a question for Mr. Ryabov.

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3. Various options are being worked out in the Kremlin.

4. No.

5. I would start real, not devious "talks" with the Chechnya separatists and stop the bloodshed there.

6. Freedom of speech and the inviolability of private property. The present authorities do not always uphold these principles, but people will never give them up.

7. It has already been complicated by the choice of "two evils" imposed on the voters. I therefore propose: Citizens, vote according to your conscience.

Lebed:

1. Enough to win or proceed to the second round.

2. Pretty great, but the scale of rigging will not exceed 10 percent of the votes — any more would be technically impossible.

3. Yes.

4. No.

5. A declaration of an end to the 80 years of civil war between "Reds" and "Whites." From now on we only build. From now on we are a unified country.

6. Freedom of entrepreneurial initiative. The right to be a boss. Freedom of speech.

7. If the "anti-Communists" or "antireformers" win, it will be inevitable. Russia's salvation lies in a victory for common sense. A victory for a candidate of the entire people and a national leader.

Zhirinovskiy:

1. At least 11-12 percent.

2. Huge. According to our information a computer program has been developed which automatically inserts percentage increases in the number of votes for Yeltsin in comparison with the second candidate.

3. The first stage is bound to take place. The second stage might never happen. Otherwise why have troops been moved into Moscow?

4. I agree. Not Yeltsin and Zyuganov, however, but Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy. The CIA is providing precise information.

5. First we will all go on leave. We will calm ourselves and the country down. We will end the civil war and then tackle the economy and the power structures.

6. The 3 percent who have already gotten rich don't want to change anything. Ninety-seven percent want any change, want everything in their lives to change.

7. If a minority comes to power again the civil war will not smolder but burst into flames, but if the majority and the minority find an opportunity to create a coalition government there will not be a civil war. I have made tentative and firm proposals for such a government.

Shakkum:

1. Enough to make it into the second round of voting.

2. I trust Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov.

3. I would hope for compliance with the law and the Constitution.

4. I do not agree. Why else would I have participated in the elections?

5. I would pension off B.N. Yeltsin in a dignified manner and find a job for G.A. Zyuganov.

6. Freedom of speech and the right to choose.

7. I do not agree. There would be no greater division of society than there is today. And there should be no fear that we will not get "the best of the possible options" as president as a result of the elections. We will repeat this procedure time and again.

Tuleyev:

1. As I promised, I intend to ask my voters to vote on 16 June not for me but for Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov. He and I are in a single bloc, and the victory of the common candidate of the people's forces is more important to me than personal success. Our candidate G. Zyuganov will get a percentage of votes such that it will be clear to everybody that the bloc's victory, G. Zyuganov's victory, is no coincidence.

2. Rigging is beneficial to only one candidate — B.N. Yeltsin. And it's beneficial in any eventuality. If the figure-padding is not exposed he goes through and everything's fine. If it is not exposed he expresses outrage, punishes the culprits, fires them.... And declares the elections invalid!

There is yet another option. Yeltsin goes into the second round well behind Zyuganov. And suddenly turns out to be sick and officially withdraws his candidacy! Single-candidate elections are impossible.

In both cases the elections have to be postponed. For how long? A month? But no budget would withstand another such campaign.

So would it be for a year? Or maybe for four, no messing?

3. I hope so.

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4. They are undoubtedly the only ones with a realistic chance.

5. I believe that the new president, G. Zyuganov, will start implementing the program for getting out of the crisis which he has published. It includes protecting Russian commodity producers, formulating a unifying nationalities policy, and returning the Army to the sphere of the state's real, not rhetorical interests.

6. Neither the voters, nor I, nor you will give up the changes given to us by the Gorbachev reforms — freedom of speech, thought, and creativity. The Yeltsin reforms are a different thing: unsuccessful privatization and monetarist policy. But that's another subject.

7. This is a question for our current rulers, who are going to lose on 16 June and will be compelled to worry about the procedure for transferring power. There will be no division unless they take it into their heads to resist. Let's hope it will be as it is throughout the world: You lost so go into opposition and choose yourself a more popular leader, and in four years you're welcome to take part in the elections!

Fedorov:

1. Let the voter answer this question 16 June.

2. Great, because there is a disparity between the electoral rolls and the actual population.

3. Most likely yes.

4. If the "third force" had happened, I would answer this question in the negative.

5. I would submit an initiative enshrining in law the right of labor collectives to become the owners of the means of production and the fruits of their labor; I would declare war on crime and introduce tax breaks for producers,

6. The chance to become a property owner.

7. I agree. It is necessary to form a government of people's trust from all the main political forces in society.

Bryntsalov:

1. 23 percent.

2. No.

3. Yes.

4. No.

5. I would increase the minimum wage to 3.5 million rubles abd the minimum pension to 3 million. I would implement emergency customs measures to protect national markets from imported finished products. I would carry out a tax reform whereby 80 percent of the budget would be formed from a tax on individuals.

6. Political liberty.

7. No. Elect me!

Gorbachev:

1. If there are free and honest elections I will get enough votes in the first round to get into the second. I assess my chances highly.

2. It would not be a moral problem for the authorities to decided to rig the elections.

Will all these manipulations help the authorities? At the first elections in 1989 around 40 obkom [oblast party committee] secretaries lost although they controlled everything: newspapers, radio, television, and a ramified bureaucracy. It was as helpful as a poultice to a corpse.

3. The first round will take place, of course. But the fate of the second depends on how far its results suit Yeltsin. I know that various scenarios are being worked out in the president's entourage, including for the nondemocratic development of the situation.

4. I disagree. Categorically disagree. All these ratings are lies. In Novosibirsk everyone remembers that Vitaliy Mukha, who was elected governor in December, had a rating of 4 percent, whereas the governor who was in office in the preelection period had 70 percent. And where is he now? In Petersburg Sobchak was also ahead in the ratings, but Yakovlev became governor.

As for non-fake sociology, Yeltsin was presented with a document showing that his real rating is 3.8 percent and that all he can hope for is 10 percent — 12 percent at most. So some members of his team started getting nervous and interviews with a normally tight-lipped person proposing the postponement of the elections started to appear.

5. The very first thing must be to end the war in Chechnya. Mothers can be confident: I will not allow their sons to be killed in internal civil conflicts.

My first steps would include a resolute drive against crime.

I intend to put an end to the autocratic regime. The president's current czarist powers have paralyzed the work of parliament, government, and regional authorities alike. They are not working but spend their whole time looking over their shoulder at the president. The fate of the country must not depend on the state of health, mood, or whims of one man and his entourage. This kind of power is ineffective, unpredictable, and dangerous.

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6. You know, a large group of young — I would even say very young — people have joined by election staff. Their average age is 20. Different people from different social strata and with different levels of affluence. But they all say: Thank you, Mikhail Sergeyevich, for giving the country freedom. I think that the majority of citizens realize this and do not want to go back to a communist paradise.

7. It all depends on what the results of these elections turn out to be. It is difficult to weigh up in historical terms what is worse for the country — Yeltsin or Zyuganov. As I see it, they are both as bad as each other. If Yeltsin stays, imagine the kind of opposition that will spring up in the country. Whereas in his first presidency he gave us Zyuganov as a result of his policy, by the next elections he will have spawned a monster such as would make even Anpilov look like a "dove."

But the Communists are longing for historical revenge. It is necessary to get away from the Yeltsin-or-Zyuganov option being imposed on society and consign them both to the pages of history textbooks.

Only Gorbachev has sufficient experience to give Yeltsin and Zyuganov a contest. If Yeltsin and Zyuganov get into the second round I will urge Russians to vote against them both.

Instead of a Postscript

So there are three days left until the elections for the country's president. For a little longer — until the official declaration of the voting results — the names of the 11 contenders for the supreme state post will be the best-known in Russia. They are such different people, our "Kremlin dreamers." But, judging by their answers, they are all irrepressible optimists.

Eight of the nine contenders who participated in our poll hope to become president after the first round or at least to get into the second round. The exception was Aman Tuleyev, who has publicly urged his voters to vote for Gennadiy Zyuganov.

Practically all the candidates express the hope that the presidential elections will take place on the appointed date, at least the first round.

At the same time almost all of them fear rigging when the votes are counted. Only Shakkum and Bryntsalov trust the Central Electoral Commission and Ryabov.

Our candidates also make different predictions of Russians' possible reaction to the election results. Shakkum, Bryntsalov, and Zyuganov believe there will be no division in society. The others take issue with them.

But the main thing is that all the candidates without exception are convinced that Russians today will not give up the freedoms which they have acquired during the years of reform — freedom of speech, thought, and creativity — for anything in the world.

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Jun

LD1406060896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0534 GMT 14 Jun 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW June 14 (Itar-Tass) — Follows a review of Friday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers. The press highlights presidential election campaign-related topics.

TRUD carries an interview with President Boris Yeltsin.

In the run-up to the June 16 presidential elections, questions put during the interview were formulated on the strength of the analysis of readers' letters.

"The state of affairs has taken such a turn that on June 16 we all are to elect Russia's future road, not a new president. Therefore, I have no right to lose the elections," Yeltsin pointed out.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the above-parties status of the presidency.

"It is only due to the fact that Boris Yeltsin adheres to the principle of the above-parties status of the presdiency that we are learning how to get out of crises in a civilised way," the newspaper writes in a column of reports under the headline "Boris Yeltsin is the President of All People in Russia".

IZVESTIYA on remarks by presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov.

The newspaper runs what it terms "A Concise Course on the CPRF", compiled by the paper's Analytical Centre on the strength of remarks made by Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communsit Party of the Russian Federation and a presidential candidate.

The remarks are derived from various sources and are compared with the facts of life inside and outside Russia. The newspaper notes that the characteristic feature of the CPRF and its leader is the interpretation of facts in their own interests.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI refutes Gennadiy Zyuganov's assertion that "some elements of democracy exist only due to the strength of the opposition".

The newspaper publishes documents about mass political repressions in Soviet times. According the data given, almost every third competent member of society happened to be behind bars within the lifespan of one generation. The paper also runs restricted-access documents of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, which testify to the rampancy of embezzlement and bribery, and the scarcity of stocks on the consumers' market in Soviet times.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the election date operation of the headquarters of the All-Russian Movement of Public Support for President Boris Yeltsin.

Yuriy Sizov, Head of the Press Centre of the Movement and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Russia is Our Home movement, has described how the Headquarters, to be housed in the Itar-Tass building, will operate on the election date. Journalists will be able to receive all information about the course of the polling at the Movement's press centre on June 16-17.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on Moscow metro blast.

The newspaper quotes the opinion of experts that the mine on the Serpukhov line of the Moscow metro was planted by a professional. A spokesman at the Moscow Police Head Office has told the newspaper that the probability of a recurrence of such acts cannot be ruled out. At the same time measures are being taken to prevent such acts.

IZVESTIYA on the investigation of the Budennovsk tragedy one year after the event.

The newspaper's analyst writes about the course of the investigation into the case, in which there are no defendants up to now. The leader of the investigation team has requested the leadership of the Office of Prosecutor-General to extend the investigation period for another three months.

IZVESTIYA on possible consequences of the decision to transfer 5,000,000 million roubles from the profit of the Central Bank of Russia to the budget.

The newspaper forecasts that ordinarly Russian depositors, who count on bank credits, will come to feel the impact of the decision in July.

IZVESTIYA on Tambov police actions.

The newspaper reports that in Tambov "local police crack down on businessmen and democrats". The newspaper writes about the city morals in an article headlined "The arrest in Tambov".

IZVESTIYA on Russian Foreign Ministry decision about its pensionable-age members.

All Ministry staff members, who have attainted the pension age, should apply for retirement "in accordance with their desire" before June 13. "The Foreign Ministry has set about rejuvenating its staff," the newspaper comments.

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CIS: Another Round of Karabakh Negotiations Opens in Moscow

LD1406093496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0729 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 14 (Interfax) — Another round of negotiations between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh opened Friday in Moscow.

The negotiations are mediated by the Minsk group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A spokesman for the Russian co-chair of the Minsk group Vladimir Kazimirov told Interfax Thursday that the negotiating teams would focus on a draft political agreement and key aspects of efforts to settle the Karaakh conflict. The Minsk group is the working body of the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kazimirov, who is President Yeltsin's plenipotentiary emissary for Nagorno-Karabakh, feels "more favorable conditions have been created for constructive negotiations."

He appreciates the contribution of the May summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Kislovodsk meeting of the federal, Trans and North Caucasian leaders whose final document calls for moves to galvanize the negotiating process.

In Kazimirov's view, last April's meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents, the visit paid by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov to Nagorno-Karabakh and Primakov-mediated POW and hostage exchange cannot help but influence the course of the Moscow negotiations.

This round of the Karabakh negotiations is to close on June 18. At the invitation of OSCE chairman Flavio Cotti, the co-chairmen of the Minsk conference and their representatives will join the foreign ministers of Hungary, Switzerland and Denmark on June 20 for a discussion of the Karabakh negotiations, Kazimirov said. The Hungarian foreign minister chaired the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe before Cotti took over, and his Danish counterpart is to chair the same organization after Cotti steps down.

The Karabakh negotiations will be expected to continue, probably in Sweden, Kazimirov said.

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Russia: Out-of-Turn: Yeltsin on National Security

MM1406095696 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jun 96 pp 7-8

["Russian Federation President's Message to the Federal Assembly on National Security," signed by B. Yeltsin and dated June 1996]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the foreign policy sphere the main objective of national security policy is the formation of an external environment that is favorable to the country's internal development. A key condition for achieving this is the preservation of peace and the peaceful resolution of all interstate problems and contradictions that arise, without detriment to Russia's interests.

The characteristics of the present foreign policy situation, when there is no large-scale external military threat, enable Russia to make use of the available forces and resources to achieve the highest priority goals — completion of the foundations of the constitutional democratic system and spiritual and economic revival.

In pursuing national security objectives in the international arena, Russia is guided by the norms of international law and the principles of safeguarding man's inalienable rights and freedoms. The strengthening of its foreign policy positions can be achieved by increasing its role in the activity of the United Nations and other international organizations and not allowing Russia to be drawn into a new military-political standoff and bloc confrontation.

Russia does not intend to enter into confrontation with any international center of power whatever, nor to fall into one-sided dependence on it. Its strategy in this regard in the coming years will be a strategy of "equidistance" ["ravnopriblizhennost": implies "equal closeness (to)," in contrast to the more usual "ravnoudalennost," "equal distance (from)"]. That creates the conditions for Russia gradually to join the centers of world economic development, which presupposes, among other things, the development of collaboration and cooperation with the world's leading states, first and foremost the United States, and in the long term effectively joining with the "G-7" group of the most developed countries.

In foreign policy Russia follows clear priorities in which the prime significance is attached to establishing good-neighborly and mutually advantageous relations with the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The priority given to relations with the CIS countries in Russia's foreign policy is determined by two factors. First, vitally important Russian interests in the sphere of security, defense, and the economy, and also in the field of the protection of the rights of Russians irrespective of their place of permanent residence, are concentrated on the territory of the former USSR. Second, effective cooperation with the Commonwealth countries is a factor that counteracts centrifugal tendencies within Russia itself.

In these conditions the main objective of Russia's policy with regard to the CIS is the creation of a stable association of sovereign states that is economically and politically integrated and capable of claiming a worthy place in the world community. The possibility also still exists of uniting a number of the new independent states which sprang up after the breakup of the USSR into a fundamentally new, modern geopolitical formation based on equality, respect for territorial integrity, and voluntarity. Russia's policy with regard to the CIS is formulated in the document "Russia's Strategic Course With the CIS Member States," confirmed by the Russian Federation presidential edict of 14 September 1995.

The basis of policy with regard to the CIS could be a union with Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, given good will on the part of the last-named. In historical and civilizational terms, no prerequisites can exist for confrontation between these countries. Our relations should be built on the basis of good-neighborliness and cooperation and in the long term should acquire the character of an alliance [soyuznicheskiy kharakter]. Russian policy should, on the one hand, be geared toward the functioning of CIS mechanisms in the political, military, and economic spheres, and on the other, should promote multi-track integration and be geared to the creation and development of fundamentally new organs of integration within the framework of the "union of four" — Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia — and the "union of two" — Belarus and Russia. Each of these systems is open to free withdrawal, the admission of new members, and contacts with other interstate and world transnational formations.

Both Russians and citizens of other Commonwealth countries should really feel the advantageous of a shared existence. This will not only strengthen the Commonwealth, but promote the stabilization of the situation in all the CIS countries.

While seeking cooperation with NATO and the Western European Union, the Russian Federation cannot agree to attempts to shift the center of gravity on questions of ensuring security on the continent to organizations in which it is not really represented. Russia advocates the creation of an all-European security mechanism with the participation of all countries, including the Russian Federation as the biggest state in Europe. Only on this basis can a new split be avoided on the continent and the effectiveness of the all- European process increased.

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In 1996-2000 the main directions of Russia's national security policy in the foreign sphere are aimed at resolving the following tasks:

— the development, based on modern geopolitical realities and Russia's foreign policy interests, of good-neighborly and, more than that, alliance relations with the new independent states which sprang up as a result of the breakup of the USSR, making provision for: the restoration of mutually advantageous ties with the CIS member countries; active work to safeguard the rights and interests of compatriots living in the former USSR republics; the settlement of ethnic-political conflicts; work to ensure the political stability and socioeconomic prosperity of contiguous states; and the safeguarding of the security of the external borders of Russia and the CIS member countries;
— the preservation and consolidation of a stable, realistic partnership with the West European countries in a manner appropriate to the status of the Russian Federation and its political and economic interests. Russia has an interest in the fullest possible, equal participation in European economic, political, and military integration structures. Russia is open to further cooperation with Germany. It supports France's course of building a security system on the continent that would exclude discrimination against any European country. Russia seeks to strengthen relations with Britain;
— fuller integration into international political, economic, and military organizations in the Asian-Pacific region, among other things through joint efforts to develop Siberia and the Far East. The expansion of partnership ties with states of the Asian-Pacific region. The maintenance of good-neighborly relations and the dynamic development of a strategic partnership, geared to the 21st century, with China; the stepping up of efforts to conclude a peace treaty and establish cooperation with Japan;
— the maintenance of equal, partnership relations with the United States, which is appropriate to Russia's continuing high status in the international arena and remains a most important national interest of the Russian Federation. This collaboration should take equal account of both states' national interests and be of a mutually advantageous nature;
— the restoration and development of bilateral relations with the countries of the Baltic and of Eastern, Central, and Southern Europe, the removal of mutual concerns, and the realization of the potential for economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and information cooperation;
— the stabilization of the situation in the Near and Middle East region, where Russia will seek to activate its policy and its mediation role with the aim of supporting efforts to ensure the peaceful settlement of any tensions arising in the region;
— the expansion of cooperation with the states of South Asia, where Russia's main partner in the economic and political spheres is India;
— the maintenance — as a long-term strategic course — of balanced relations with other Asian countries and the countries of Africa and Latin America;
— the creation of regional (first and foremost European) and global systems of international security with Russia's full participation.

The Russian Federation's military policy defines the main objectives and directions of ensuring its military security and the defense of its vital interests with the help of military means. It accords with the provisions of the UN Charter, the 1975 and 1992 Helsinki accords, the 1990 Paris Charter, and other international treaties, agreements, and accords.

The Russian Federation condemns military confrontation in any form and will seek to deter specific military threats primarily within the framework of collective security systems at regional and global levels. The priority for the Russian Federation is the creation of a collective security system for the common military-strategic area of the CIS on the basis of the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992 and bilateral agreements with the CIS countries.

The Russian Federation does not seek to maintain quantitative parity in armaments and armed forces with the leading states, and is committed to the principle of realistic deterrence based on determination to use its Armed Forces in response to the unleashing of aggression. Russia's defense potential is determined by the country's economic, scientific, technical, and demographic potential and should not exceed a level sufficient to parry existing and predicted military threats to the state's security. The Russian Federation seeks to optimize its defense efforts and, in the context of the economic difficulties it is experiencing, concentrates its limited resources on maintaining the combat readiness of its Armed Forces, equipping them with the most effective models of arms and military equipment, and preserving the appropriate military-industrial potential.

The Russian Federation consistently pursues a policy of nuclear deterrence. A key role in its implementation is played by maintaining at a sufficient level the Russian Federation's nuclear potential both at global level (the Strategic Nuclear Forces) and on a regional and local scale (operational-tactical and tactical nuclear weapons) as well as the potential for deterrence by nonnuclear means.

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This policy is founded on comprehensive analysis and long-term forecasting of the geopolitical, socioeconomic, and military-strategic situation and assessment of the state of scientific and technical progress and its prospects, making it possible to ensure the optimization of the structure and composition of the nuclear and nonnuclear deterrent forces and defense industry potential and the effective funding of this most important area of national defense and security.

For the foreseeable future the Russian Federation preserves the status of a nuclear power in order to prevent nuclear attack or large-scale aggression with the use of conventional armed forces and armaments against it and/or its allies, and also to provide the new independent states of the Commonwealth with nuclear guarantees as one component in agreements on military questions. Here the Russian Federation intends strictly to adhere to existing and future treaties on strategic offensive arms and ABM defense and is prepared to continue the further reduction of its nuclear weapons on a bilateral basis with the United States, while preserving the balance of strategic arms as a guarantee against a return to a global force confrontation and the arms race. Russia is also ready for talks [on] and the reduction of nuclear weapons on a multilateral basis with other nuclear states to a level appropriate to the requirements of strategic stability.

Stability in the strategic arms sphere is ensured by maintaining Russia's capability to deter nuclear attack and actions encroaching on its vital interests by ensuring the possibility of the guaranteed infliction of specific damage in retaliatory actions and the maintenance of the nuclear balance at the lowest possible level with the aim of preventing a return to the strategic arms race.

In the conventional arms sphere [stability is ensured] by maintaining the level of technical equipment and combat readiness of the Russian Federation Armed Forces at a level sufficient to parry any attempts at aggression against Russia and/or its allies with regard to which Russia has corresponding treaty obligations. It [Russia] advocates the further limitation of conventional armed forces and armaments on the basis of international agreements, and adheres in its military organizational development to the principle of defense sufficiency. [passage omitted]

Russia: Defense Minister Grachev Arrives in Brussels

LD1306193996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1805 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels, 13 Jun — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev today arrived in Brussels. On Friday, he will attend a meeting of NATO defense ministers according to the 16 plus one formula. He will also attend a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council at the level of defense ministers and will meet his U.S. counterpart William Perry.

Russia: Grachev Reaffirms Opposition to NATO Expansion

AU1406094096 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, June 14 (AFP) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reaffirmed Friday Moscow's opposition to the expansion of NATO to the east in a meeting here with alliance defense ministers, diplomatic sources said.

"Mr. Grachev reiterated that Russia is not in favor of NATO enlargement because that would perpetuate the situation prevailing during the Cold War," a diplomat said.

In a brief statement after the meeting, Grachev did not mention the issue but said Russia was ready for deeper and closer contacts with the North Atlantic alliance.

Russia: Failure To Invite Fleet to PFP Exercise 'Strange'

MM1306155796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Pasyakin: "Cooperative Partner Minus the Black Sea Fleet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from the Ukrainian Navy Press Center, preparations for the "Cooperative Partner-96" naval exercises, which are planned for 22-27 June, have begun within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program.

Peacekeeping tasks will be rehearsed during the exercises, which will take place in Romanian territorial waters. It is planned to carry out an embargo operation, the formation and escort of convoys, and so forth. The Ukrainian Navy will be represented by the Khmelnitskiy, a small ASW ship.

At the Black Sea Fleet Press Center it has been reported that the Black Sea Fleet has not received an invitation to

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take part in these exercises. Consequently the statements about NATO's readiness and desire to cooperate with the Russian fleet expressed by NATO admirals and in particular by Admiral Mario Angeli, commander of NATO's Joint Naval Forces, Southern Europe, a recent visitor to the Crimea, seem strange.

Russia: Duma Protests at Balts' 'Disrespect' Over Voting Right

MM1406103296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jun 96 p 1

[Statement by the Russian Federation State Duma "On Guaranteeing the Constitutional Right of Russian Federation Citizens Resident or Located Temporarily on the Territories of the Latvian Republic and the Estonian Republic To Participate in the Russian Federation Presidential Election", dated Moscow, 7 June 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hundreds of thousands of Russian citizens who are abroad will participate in the Russian Federation presidential election 16 June. The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma is pleased to note that the authorities in the majority of the world states have reacted with understanding to the Russian side's requests to actively assist Russian Federation citizens to exercise their constitutional right to express their choice freely.

The authorities in the Latvian and Estonian Republics have adopted a completely different stance. They are refusing on spurious pretexts to permit the opening of additional polling places in locations in Latvia and Estonia that are densely populated by Russians. What is actually at issue is their intention to prevent the exercise of their civil and political rights by tens of thousands of people, which the Latvian and Estonian authorities committed themselves to respect when they joined the Council of Europe and became party to the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international treaties on human rights.

The State Duma states that the authorities in Riga and Tallinn are taking a new step in their policy of discriminating against people whose native language is Russian. First they deprive hundreds of thousands of permanent residents of these states of their political rights by refusing them the right to citizenship, and now they are limiting the opportunity of those who have decided to adopt Russian Federation citizenship to exercise their electoral rights. The State Duma cannot regard such actions as anything other than a blatant show of disrespect for the Russian Federation and Russian citizens. Such a policy will inevitably lead to a worsening of relations with Russia and will hinder the development of dialogue at the parliamentary level.

The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma appeals to the parliaments and governments of the Latvian and Estonian Republics to acknowledge their responsibility to the international community to observe unswervingly the commonly accepted European standards and principles of democracy with regard to each person, irrespective of his place of residence, and to review their discriminatory decisions. The State Duma calls on international European organizations, first and foremost the Council of Europe and the OSCE, to use the means at their disposal to impel the Latvian and Estonian authorities to discharge their international obligations and create conditions for the unimpeded implementation of the constitutional rights of Russian Federation citizens resident or located temporarily on the territories of these states.

[Dated] Moscow, 7 June 1996

Russia: Deputy Minister: Russian Role Essential for Bosnia Peace

LD1406074396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0720 GMT 14 Jun 96

[By Aleksey Bukalov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] FLORENCE, June 14 (Itar-Tass) — "Without Russia's participation, it is impossible to establish a comprehensive and just peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This truth has again become evident at the meeting here," Igor Ivanov, Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister, has told Itar-Tass. He attends the current international conference here to monitor the Bosnia peace process.

"The military phase of peacemaking efforts has been completed, and rather successfuly, too, and with active participation of a Russian military contingent. Efforts should now be focused on the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton peace agreement which bear Russia's signature as well," Ivanov said.

"The date for the holding of elections in Bosnia is one of contentious issues. Notwithstanding their unprepared nature, the planned elections are essential for the creation of a mechanism of local self-government and therefore should be held on September 14, as has been suggested by the OSCE," the Russian diplomat emphasised.

Ivanov pointed out that a real chance is presentring itself to maintain traditional Russian economic presence in the Balkans. It is not fortuitous that Deputy Minister of

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Economics Andrey Shapovalyants is a member of the Russian delegation in Florence.

The conference continues its work on Friday.

Russia: Chechen Diaspora Leader Views Conflict With Russia

AU1306155596 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 13 Jun 96 p 2

[Interview with Salambek Maigov, chairman of the Baslam Federation, by Miklos Kun in Moscow; date not given: "Interview With the Leader of the Chechen Diaspora — The War Cannot Be Ended by a Whistle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some half a million Chechen people — whose nation has been at war with the Moscow leadership for 18 months — are living as emigres in the Middle East and in European and North American countries, and 300,000 to 400,000 are in the Soviet successor states. Many legends are known throughout the world about the help given to their nation and their stance in the conflict. We interviewed Salambek Maigov, chairman of the Baslam (Mountain Top) Federation, who is staying in Moscow, on this issue.

[Maigov] Since the beginning of the world war [as published], the Chechen diaspora has held four major world meetings, as a result of which the congress of the Vaynakh (meaning Chechen and Ingush) people was formed. This group, which deals with political problems, participates in discussing the problems of Ichkeria [Chechnya], and we regularly give humanitarian aid to our people. As it is a war zone, we sometimes meet with difficulties: My car was once fired at from a military helicopter near Groznyy, and I had to jump out while it was moving; another time, they wanted to lock me up in a prisoner of war camp, but as we represent an officially registered movement, according to Russia's laws, they cannot obstruct us.

[Kun] What are your views on the Moscow talks between the Kremlin and, as you call it, the Ichkeria Republic's delegation led by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev?

[Maigov] I believe that all sober-minded people welcome any effort aimed at stopping the military activities. Unfortunately, however, we cannot cherish special hopes. It is obvious that this series of talks is part of Boris Yeltsin's presidential election campaign, and even as such it is of dubious value: Military activity has been continuous in Chechnya since 1 June when the ceasefire should have started. To a certain extent, this was provoked by Yeltsin during his brief visit, when he congratulated Russian soldiers for "smashing the gangs."

[Kun] Are those people who claim that Yeltsin did not actually enter Chechnya right?

[Maigov] He only visited the right bank flat land region, which, historically, is of course part of Chechnya, but this area has almost entirely escaped the war. The population of the village he visited mainly support Moscow governor Doku Zavgayev. It is a different matter that, being mountain Chechens, 90 percent of Zavgayev's clan are still at war with Moscow.

[Kun] According to Yeltsin's press secretary, the fighting has continued because Yandarbiyev, who signed the peace agreement, is unable to control all Chechen armed units.

[Maigov] The same way, it can be said that President Yeltsin, chief commander of the Russian army, does not have control of the Russian Federation's army. The whole world was able to see how many times he ordered the cessation of air attacks, but they continued immediately, unhindered. The same happened to the cease-fire order given on 31 March this year. Millions of people were able to see on television that, with the help of attacks by military aircraft, the military activities were started again. General Aleksandr Lebed was right in saying recently that a war is not like a boxing match that can be ended by the referee's whistle. It can be started in a flash, but it is extremely difficult to end.

[Kun] Parallel with the fighting in Chechnya, there is also a war of information. Immediately after Dudayev's death, and some days later when news came about the killing of Yandarbiyev, the local authorities almost made fools of the world media.

[Maigov] Of course, anything can happen in a war. It is a fact, however, that, in this conflict, it is in Moscow's interest to depict the Chechens as divided, or even as a conglomerate of groups that fight each other and have no joint leadership. The issue you mentioned was only one in the long list of issues that are usually called provocation in political terminology. The same motivation was behind the false report on Samil Basayev's (terrorist who took hostages — editor's note) appointment as chief commander of the Chechen forces. Although, later, this also proved to be a hoax, it had made an impact. Unfortunately, the world gets most of its information about Chechnya and the Chechens from Russian sources — and we have rather limited means in mass communications.

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Russia: Aircrew Detained in Afghanistan Vote in Elections

LD1306144396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Viktor Lebedev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AL-KUWAYT, Jun 13 (Itar-Tass) — Seven Russian Il-76 crew members held by the Afghani Taleban opposition group in Kandahar for over ten months will have an oppurtunity to vote in the Russian presidential elections, Sergey Denisenko, a representative of the Transavia airlines in Sharjah (the United Arab Emirates), told Itar-Tass by telephone on Thursday.

According to Denisenko, two representatives from the Central Election Commission acompanied by the airlines' staff members took off on Thursday from Sharjah to deliver ballot-papers to Kandahar and have the Russian pilots cast their votes.

After an examination by Russian physicians organized a week ago, the pilots feel good, Denisenko said. Once a week, the company delivers food and drinking water to the captives.

The Central Election Commission's representatives are expected to return to Sharjah late on Thursday.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Sends Message on National Security to Parliament

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin send a message on national security to Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev and Chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev Thursday, the presidential press service told Interfax.

The goal of the message, which the press service said has no bearing on the electoral race, is "to formulate a conceptual basis of the country's national security, values and interests in the context of the situation in the country and the world and to define the main lines of the national security policy in 1996-2000."

At this stage the top national interest of Russia, which is also the top constitutional value, is ensuring man's development, stable improvement of living standards through observance of rights and freedoms and stimulating personal responsibility; another top priority is assuring the country's democratic development.

The long-term interests of Russia, like any other country, is to maintain its special position in the world community, assuring its national security, political sovereignty and stable socioeconomic development, Yeltsin says.

Assuring the security and development of its citizens and society, consolidation of Russian statehood, strengthening of the present geopolitical frontiers and territories and enabling Russia to play a dignified role in world politics are the overriding objectives of the country's national security policy in 1996-2000, he believes.

A generally recognized philosophical basis which would reconcile most radical rivals and opponents is essential for a true national accord, Yeltsin thinks. This could be the ideology for building a Great Russia as a thriving and democratic, free and responsible world power which combines its own historical features with whatever is valuable and progressive in human achievements, he says.

Russia's policy is inevitably becoming increasingly pragmatic, which does not imply that it is anti-Western, the press service comment says.

Russia: Leading Politicians for May Listed

964F2414A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jun 96 pp 1-2

[Survey of selected experts conducted by the Vox Populi service for the study of public opinion and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "100 Leading Politicians of Russia in May: Two Weeks Until the Election—Yeltsin's Standing Improves, Zyuganov's Standing Drops"; article by Aleksandr Kinsburskiy, Vox Populi Service: The Political Mt. Olympus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon requisition of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and in joint effort with it, the Vox Populi service for the study of public opinion continues its monthly determination of the top 100 most influential Russian political figures, indicating their ranking (from 1 to 100) and average grade denoting the "weight" of each—both with and without an influence designator (positive or negative), indicating the influence they exerted on the domestic and foreign policy of Russia during the past month.

Included in the preliminary listing in addition to the names of the 100 politicians acknowledged as most prominent figures in April were 50 additional names of state and public figures who manifest themselves prominently in May. As always, the grade and influence designator were determined by experts—leaders of the central mass media, well-known political commentators and experts.

A 10-point scale was used for the evaluation. If a politician played no role whatsoever last month, he was awarded a zero-rating. Based on the average grade—with and without influence designator—a listing was drawn up of Russian political figures who exerted the greatest influence on Russian politics in May, from the point of view of the experts. The survey was conducted from 20 through 23 May.

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100 Leading Politicians of Russia in March

Ranking	Last name, first name, patronymic	Average grade in May (without influence designator)	Average grade in April (without influence designator)	Average grade in May (with influence designator)	Average grade in April (with influence designator)
1.	Yeltsin, Boris Nikolayevich	8.51	(8.31)	+6.89	(+6.36)
2.	Chernomyrdin, Viktor Stepanovich	7.04	(6.85)	+6.52	(+6.33)
3.	Zyuganov, Gennadiy Andreyevich	6.87	(7.08)	-2.13	(-2.76)
4.	Luzhkov, Yuriy Mikhaylovich	6.85	(6.71)	+6.67	(+6.53)
5.	Yavlinskiy, Grigoriy Alekseyevich	6.22	(5.57)	+3.00	(+3.78)
6.	Korzhakov, Aleksandr Vasilyevich	6.20	(6.24)	-1.20	(-0.24)
7.	Primakov, Yevgeniy Maksimovich	5.75	(5.73)	+4.83	(+5.09)
8.	Grachev, Pavel Sergeyevich	5.22	(5.65)	-2.89	(-4.00)
9.	Zhirinovskiy, Vladimir Volfovich	5.16	(5.10)	-2.70	(-3.93)
10.	Ilyushin, Viktor Vasilyevich	5.04	(5.71)	+3.63	(+3.49)
11.	Lebed, Aleksandr Ivanovich	4.93	(5.04)	+2.21	(+4.08)
12.	Barsukov, Mikhail Ivanovich	4.90	(4.66)	-1.28	(-2.65)
13.	Seleznev, Gennadiy Nikolayevich	4.87	(4.83)	-1.09	(-0.86)
14.	Soskovets, Oleg Nikolayevich	4.80	(5.12)	+0.77	(+2.21)
15.	Ryabov, Nikolay Timofeyevich	4.76	(4.84)	+4.20	(+3.40)
16.	Stroyev, Yegor Semenovich	4.75	(5.02)	+4.50	(+4.77)
17.	Yegorov, Nikolay Dmitriyevich	4.71	(5.28)	-1.38	(-1.13)
18.	Livshits, Aleksandr Yakovlevich	4.70	(4.92)	+4.23	(+4.58)
19.	Aleksiy II	4.69	(4.46)	+4.34	(+4.41)
20.	Kadannikov, Vladimir Vasilyevich	4.62	(4.66)	+4.39	(+4.38)
21.	Rossel, Eduard Ergartovich	4.60	(4.12)	+4.21	(+3.58)

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Ranking	Last name, first name, patronymic	Average grade in May (without influence designator)	Average grade in April (without influence designator)	Average grade in May (with influence designator)	Average grade in April (with influence designator)
22.	Skuratov, Yuriy Ilich	4.54	(3.98)	+4.49	(+3.70)
23.	Nemtsov, Boris Yefimovich	4.53	(4.27)	+3.73	(+3.86)
24-25.	Kulikov, Anatoliy Sergeyevich	4.48	(4.79)	+2.88	(+1.63)
24-25.	Kuptsov, Valentin Aleksandrovich	4.48	(3.55)	-2.98	(-1.74)
26.	Dubinin, Sergey Konstantinovich	4.47	(4.63)	+4.47	(+4.48)
27.	Baturin, Yuriy Mikhaylovich	4.46	(4.57)	+3.85	(+4.16)
28.	Shaymiyev, Mintimer Sharipovich	4.24	(4.90)	+4.13	(+4.96)
29.	Fedorov, Svyatoslav Nikolayevich	4.15	(3.87)	+1.63	(+3.12)
30-33.	Zavgayev, Doku Gapurovich	3.98	(3.87)	+0.52	(+0.44)
30-33.	Nikolayev, Andrey Ivanovich	3.98	(4.00)	+4.18	(+4.33)
30-33.	Chubays, Anatoliy Borisovich	3.98	(3.20)	+1.56	(+1.72)
30-33.	Yasin, Yevgeniy Grigoryevich	3.98	(3.85)	+3.70	(+3.67)
34.	Sobchak, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich	3.93	(3.35)	+1.74	(+2.20)
35-36.	Aspilov, Viktor Ivanovich	3.91	(3.06)	-3.96	(-2.84)
35-36.	Maskhadov, Aslan Aliyevich	3.91	(4.33)	-2.64	(-3.36)
37.	Tuleyev, Amangeldy Moldagazyyevich	3.83	(3.96)	-2.34	(-2.30)
38.	Panskov, Vladimir Georgiyevich	3.81	(4.23)	+3.49	(+3.37)
39.	Gaydar, Yegor Timurovich	3.76	(2.75)	+2.40	(+2.44)
40.	Satarov, Georgiy Aleksandrovich	3.73	(3.69)	+2.82	(+2.69)
41.	Gromov, Boris Vsevolodovich	3.72	(2.45)	+3.27	(+2.29)
42.	Filatov, Sergey Aleksandrovich	3.69	(2.88)	+1.93	(+1.56)
43.	Kiselev, Yevgeniy Alekseyevich	3.67	(3.47)	+3.17	(+2.76)

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Ranking	Last name, first name, patronymic	Average grade in May (without influence designator)	Average grade in April (without influence designator)	Average grade in May (with influence designator)	Average grade in April (with influence designator)
44-45.	Volskiy, Arkadiy Ivanovich	3.57	(2.85)	+3.38	(+3.17)
44-45.	Lukyanov, Anatoliy Ivanovich	3.57	(3.19)	-2.93	(-1.75)
46.	Malashenko, Igor Yevgenyevich	3.52	(3.78)	+2.74	(+2.48)
47-48.	Mikhaylov, Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich	3.48	(3.45)	+3.43	(+3.58)
47-48.	Sagalayev, Eduard Mikhaylovich	3.48	(3.44)	+2.67	(+2.55)
49-50.	Ilyukhin, Viktor Ivanovich	3.47	(3.42)	-1.08	(-1.05)
49-50.	Resin, Vladimir Iosifovich	3.47	(3.49)	+3.64	(+3.72)
51.	Tumanov, Vladimir Aleksandrovich	3.46	(3.45)	+3.20	(+3.03)
52.	Tarpishchev, Shamil Anvarovich	3.44	(3.27)	-2.30	(-2.10)
53.	Galazov, Akhsarbek Khadzhimurzayevich	3.39	(3.00)	+2.61	(+2.72)
54-55.	Belyayev, Sergey Georgiyevich	3.37	(3.38)	+2.54	(+2.72)
54-55.	Krasnov, Mikhail Aleksandrovich	3.37	(2.94)	+2.86	(+3.06)
56.	Kokoshin, Andrey Afanasyevich	3.35	(3.35)	+3.67	(+3.28)
57.	Kolesnikov, Mikhail Petrovich	3.33	(3.45)	+2.34	(+0.82)
58.	Pain, Emil Abramovich	3.31	(3.71)	+2.37	(+2.50)
59.	Lukin, Vladimir Petrovich	3.30	(3.55)	+3.29	(+2.91)
60.	Sholkhin, Aleksandr Nikolayevich	3.28	(2.90)	+2.83	(+3.15)
61.	Kovalev, Valentin Alekseyevich	3.24	(2.43)	+2.65	(+2.24)
62.	Nevzorov, Aleksandr Glebovich	3.21	(2.90)	-1.98	(-2.53)
63.	Rakhimov, Murtaza Gubaydullovich	3.20	(2.63)	+2.90	(+2.21)
64.	Shafranik, Yuriy Konstantinovich	3.18	(2.85)	+3.66	(+2.48)
65.	Davydov, Oleg Dmitriyevich	3.17	(2.88)	+3.63	(+3.18)

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Ranking	Last name, first name, patronymic	Average grade in May (without influence designator)	Average grade in April (without influence designator)	Average grade in May (with influence designator)	Average grade in April (with influence designator)
66-67.	Borodin, Pavel Pavlovich	3.15	(3.02)	+2.59	(+1.89)
66-67.	Shoygu, Sergey Kuzhugetovich	3.15	(3.14)	+3.37	(+3.33)
68.	Ignatenko, Vitaliy Nikitich	3.14	(3.24)	+2.78	(+3.00)
69-70.	Blagovolin, Sergey Yevgenyevich	3.13	(2.89)	+1.05	(+1.29)
69-70.	Shumeyko, Vladimir Filippovich	3.13	(2.70)	+0.68	(+1.39)
71.	Gorbachev, Mikhail Sergeyevich	3.09	(3.37)	+1.33	(+1.31)
72-73.	Lobov, Oleg Ivanovich	3.06	(2.90)	+0.19	(+0.16)
72-73.	Trubnikov, Vyacheslav Ivanovich	3.06	(3.63)	+3.59	(+4.52)
74.	Zadornov, Mikhail Mikhaylovich	3.04	(2.80)	+3.29	(+3.34)
75.	Kazakov, Aleksandr Ivanovich	3.00	(3.41)	+3.13	(+2.71)
76-77.	Kovalev, Sergey Adamovich	2.98	(2.48)	+1.37	(+1.79)
76-77.	Nazdratenko, Yevgeniy Ivanovich	2.98	(3.27)	+1.02	(+0.23)
78-79.	Boldyrev, Yuriy Yuryevich	2.96	(1.68)	+1.95	(+1.77)
78-79.	Golembiovskiy, Igor Nestorovich	2.96	(2.65)	+2.40	(+2.94)
80.	Rogozin, Georgiy Georgiyevich	2.95	(2.43)	-0.52	(-0.27)
81.	Rokhlin, Lev Yakovlevich	2.94	(2.92)	+2.75	(+2.24)
82.	Tyazhlov, Anatoliy Stepanovich	2.92	(2.98)	+2.63	(+2.78)
83.	Aushev, Ruslan Sultanovich	2.91	(2.96)	+1.73	(+2.73)
84.	Mikhaylov, Viktor Nikitovich	2.88	(2.68)	+2.70	(+2.85)
85.	Varennikov, Valentin Ivanovich	2.87	(2.54)	-2.98	(-2.85)
86.	Nikolayev, Mikhail Yefimovich	2.85	(2.81)	+2.77	(+2.86)
87.	Zaveryukha, Aleksandr Kharlampiyevich	2.82	(2.67)	+1.55	(+0.62)

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Ranking	Last name, first name, patronymic	Average grade in May (without influence designator)	Average grade in April (without influence designator)	Average grade in May (with influence designator)	Average grade in April (with influence designator)
88-91.	Baburin, Sergey Nikolayevich	2.78	(2.77)	-1.31	(-0.78)
88-91.	Medvedev, Sergey Konstantinovich	2.78	(2.48)	+2.69	(+1.79)
88-91.	Prokhanov, Aleksandr Andreyevich	2.78	(2.57)	-2.88	(-2.84)
88-91.	Stepanov, Viktor Nikolayevich	2.78	(2.67)	+3.14	(+2.42)
92.	Pak, Zinoviy Petrovich	2.75	(2.53)	+3.00	(+2.55)
93.	Titov, Konstantin Alekseyevich	2.72	(2.65)	+3.11	(+3.22)
94.	Yarov, Yuriy Fedorovich	2.71	(2.63)	+2.88	(+3.00)
95.	Babichev, Vladimir Stepanovich	2.68	(2.63)	+2.37	(+2.21)
96.	Abdulatipov, Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich	2.67	(2.77)	+2.72	(+2.98)
97.	Fedorov, Nikolay Vasilyevich	2.66	(2.34)	+3.22	(+2.58)
98.	Lazutkin, Valentin Valentinovich	2.64	(2.30)	+2.32	(+2.45)
99.	Likhachev, Vasiliy Nikolayevich	2.63	(2.61)	+3.21	(+3.00)
100-102.	Ilyumzhinov, Kirsan Nikolayevich	2.62	-	-0.34	-
100-102.	Lapshin, Mikhail Ivanovich	2.62	(2.43)	-1.08	(-0.91)
100-102.	Ryzhkov, Nikolay Ivanovich	2.62	(2.63)	-1.65	(-1.25)

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The Political Mt. Olympus

According to the assessments obtained, the influence of the current Russian Federation president continued to rise last month, while the standing of his chief rival in the coming election—the chairman of the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Committee, fell once again. Gennadiy Zyuganov dropped to third place in May, yielding second place to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. This time Boris Yeltsin found himself heading the list of leading Russian political figures not only by virtue of his influence, but of its extremely positive results as well, from the point of view of the experts overall. Boris Yeltsin's major merits during the election campaign period, in the opinion of those surveyed, consist primarily of having strengthened the social orientation of presidential policy, signed a number of important international agreements, energetically communicated as a candidate on a personal level with voters, guaranteed the observance of procedure in preparation for the presidential election, maintained a stable and consistent course in the accomplishment of reforms, and energetically counteracted attempts of the Communists to return to power.

The experts were also queried about the strong, but negative (in the April assessment of the experts), influence of Gennadiy Zyuganov on Russian policy. In the point of view of survey participants, this influence consists primarily of having intensified conflict, po-

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larized society, destabilized the political situation, and presented a real threat of communist revenge and the prospect of victory of left-radical forces in the election. Some experts place partial responsibility for this on Zyuganov's election campaign comrades—Anpilov, Varennikov, and others. In this regard, the Russian Federation Communist Party leader failed to make the top 10 listing of Russian political figures exerting the most negative influence on the political situation in the country.

Just three politicians increased their standing over the past month by more than one point: Yuriy Boldyrev (78-79), running for mayor of St. Petersburg, General Boris Gromov (41), proxy of Boris Yeltsin in the presidential election, and Yegor Gaydar (39), leader of the party Democratic Choice of Russia who now unconditionally supports the current Russian Federation president. Within the framework of the top 10, Yabloko movement leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy shifted significantly upward (from 10th place in April to fifth place in May). Yavlinskiy has recently conducted active negotiations with other candidates for president on the prospect of establishing a preelection coalition.

Once again the listing of top 100 influential Russian political figures for May included the previously mentioned former Federation Council member Yuriy Boldyrev, Chuvash Republic President Nikolay Fedorov (97), Valentin Lazutkin (98)—director of the Federal Service for Radio and Television Broadcasting, and Kalmykia Republic President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov (100-102).

Falling from the list of top 100 leading Russian politicians in May were Boris Kuzyk, Petr Mostovoy, and of course Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The listing of top 10 state and public figures who, in the opinion of the experts, made the maximum positive contribution to Russian domestic and foreign policy in May is as follows:

Top 10 Positive Contributors in March

1.	Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin	+6.89
2.	Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov	+6.67
3.	Russian Federation Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin	+6.52
4.	Russian Federation Minister of Foreign Affairs Yevgeniy Primakov	+4.83
5.	Yegor Stroyev, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly	+4.50
6.	Russian Federation Procurator General Yuriy Skuratov	+4.49
7.	Russian Central Bank Chairman Sergey Dubinin	+4.47
8.	Russian Federation Government First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Kadannikov	+4.39
9.	Aleksiy II, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia	+4.34
10.	Russian Federation presidential assistant Aleksandr Livshits	+4.23

It should be noted first of all that this time Boris Yeltsin heads the top 10 "heroes" of the month, rising to first place with respect to positive influence on Russian politics. In addition, Vladimir Kadannikov, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation Government, appears on this list.

The listing of political figures who exerted the strongest negative influence on the course of political events during the past month is as follows:

Top 10 Negative Contributors in May

1.	Russian Communist Workers Party leader Viktor Anpilov	-3.96
2-3.	State Duma committee chairman Valentin Varennikov	-2.98
2-3.	Valentin Kuptsov, first deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Russian Federation Communist Party	-2.98
4.	State Duma committee chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov	-2.93
5.	Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev	-2.89
6.	ZAVTRA editor in chief Aleksandr Prokhanov	-2.88
7.	Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	-2.70
8.	Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the Chechen armed formations	-2.64
9.	Aman Tuleyev, chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Kemerovo Oblast	-2.34
10.	Shamil Tarpishchev, sports adviser to the Russian Federation president	-2.30

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The position of Dzhokhar Dudayev, who almost constantly headed the top 10 listing of "anti-heroes" of Russian politics for over a year, has been assumed by Viktor Anpilov, the leader of orthodox Communists. Interestingly, experts allocate the next three positions as well to Communists—Varennikov, Kuptsov, and Lukyanov.

Responses to the traditional question regarding the upcoming presidential election are presented below (54 experts were surveyed in February, 54 in March, 52 in April, and 56 in May):

Which Russian politician has the best chance right now of decisively winning the election of president of Russia? (In percentage of experts)

	February	March	April	May
Boris Yeltsin	46	52	60	71
Gennadiy Zyuganov	43	30	21	16
Grigoriy Yavlinskiy	3	6	2	2
Other political figures	5	2	0	0
Hard to say or declined to respond	3	10	17	11

The final preelection forecasts of the experts regarding the results of the upcoming voting look ever more decisive. In May almost three-quarters of the expert participants had no doubts but that Boris Yeltsin would win. On 16 June we will find out exactly how accurate their assessments are.

Military Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Promotes Top Military Commanders

LD1306191296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree conferring top military ranks to commanders-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces, sources at the Russian Defence ministry told Itar-Tass on Thursday.

Under the decree, Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces Vladimir Semenov, Commander-in-Chief of the Air Forces Petr Deynekin, Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Missile Forces Igor Sergeyev, Commander-in-Chief of the Air Defence Forces Viktor Prudnikov were given the ranks of General of the Army.

Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Feliks Gromov was conferred the top naval rank of the Admiral of the Fleet.

Russia: Yeltsin Orders Compensation for War Dependants

MM1406120796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jun 96 p 1

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 861 "On Additional Measures To Provide Social Protection for the Families of Servicemen, Russian Federation Internal Affairs Organ Personnel, and Citizens Sent To Restore the Chechen Republic's Economy and Social Sphere Who Have Gone Missing While Performing Tasks During the Armed Conflict in the Chechen Republic," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin in Moscow, the Kremlin, on 12 June 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to strengthen social protection for the families of servicemen, Russian Federation Internal Affairs Organ personnel, and citizens sent to restore the Chechen Republic's economy and social sphere who have gone missing while performing tasks during the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic, and guided by Article 80 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I decree:

1. The following monthly payments are to be established:

to minors (and congenital invalids irrespective of age), spouses unable to work, and the parents of servicemen, Russian Federation Internal Affairs Organ personnel, and citizens sent to restore the Chechen Republic's economy and social sphere who have gone missing while performing tasks during the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic (hereinafter referred to as servicemen, internal affairs organ personnel, and citizens) — benefits to each person at the rate of the minimum wage prescribed by Russian Federation legislation;

to families of servicemen performing military service under the draft who have gone missing while performing tasks during the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic — pay according to their military position at the rate stipulated for servicemen performing military service on contract in corresponding military positions.

The said payments are to be made before servicemen, internal affairs organ personnel, and citizens are declared

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missing in the prescribed manner and before a pension is awarded in the event of the loss of a breadwinner or their being declared dead, or until they appear or their whereabouts are discovered.

2. It is prescribed that the families of servicemen, internal affairs organ personnel, and citizens are to be paid a one-shot benefit at the rate of 10 times the minimum wage prescribed by Russian Federation legislation on the day this assistance is paid.

3. Members of the families of servicemen, internal affairs organ personnel, and citizens are to retain the privileges provided by Russian Federation legislation until these people have been declared missing (or declared dead) in the prescribed manner or until they appear or their whereabouts are discovered.

4. The Russian Federation Government is to determine the sources of funding for the costs and the procedure for paying the monetary resources envisaged by this edict.

5. This edict comes into force on the day of its publication.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 12 June 1996

Federal Assembly

Russia: Scuffle Breaks Out at Anti-Yeltsin Exhibition in State Duma

LD1306202396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] Today, Gennadiy Zyuganov, the head of the leftist bloc, once again invited Boris Yeltsin to take part in a live dialogue in order to talk about the future of Russia, candidate to candidate. [passage omitted]

Today both Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy again announced their adherence to the law and intention to finish the election campaign peacefully. Meanwhile, the first signs of an intensification in the political stand-off appeared right in the State Duma building today.

During the opening of a photo exhibition entitled "The coup d'etat: The active participants and the executors" and devoted to the October events of 1993, an assistant of Deputy Galina Starovoytova tore down one of the displays and reported what he had done to Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction member Tatyana Astrakhankina, the person responsible for the exhibition.

[Begin recording] [Astrakhankina] I am responsible for this exhibition. [video shows woman, standing amid supporters, staring at smiling young man; display board of photographs and text can be seen on wall, hanging at angle]

[Young man] Pleased to meet you. I am the person who tore it down. [video shows Astrakhankina lashing out at man who ducks to side. Her fist comes down on his back]

[Middle-aged man, glaring at the offender] Rogue.

[Astrakhankina] I had a right as a woman to do that.

[Elderly woman, waving hand at offending man] I am ashamed that women give birth to the likes of you.

[Man] What a rogue you are, eh? [video shows young man walking away] [end recording]

[Correspondent] After the break, deputies in the chamber with democratic leanings asked to be told who had given permission to open an exhibition in the Duma that contained crude abuse more fitting for the street, directed at the president of the country and other persons. Gennadiy Seleznev, the chairman of the lower chamber [State Duma], gave instructions for the incident — which he described as an act of vandalism — to be investigated.

Russia: Duma Speaker Orders Investigation of Exhibition 'Vandalism'

LD1306151196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Interfax) — Russian Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev Thursday ordered an investigation of an incident of vandalism that occurred at an exhibition in the State Duma.

Communist deputy Tatyana Astrakhankina had demanded the Duma leadership react to the case of vandalism committed Thursday by another Duma deputy, Democratic Russia leader Galina Starovoytova. The exhibition is devoted to the abortive coup attempt of October 3- 4, 1993.

Starovoytova's aide tore some pictures and materials off the wall in her presence during the lunch break, an Interfax correspondent reported. The editor-in-chief of the Pravda Moskvy (Truth of Moscow) newspaper distributed in the State Duma, Vasiliy Ponomarev, actively tried to prevent this incident, but was taken to a police station. Some time later he was released at Starovoytova's request.

Astrakhankina's demand aroused harsh criticisms from democratic deputies. Yuliy Rybakov of Democratic Choice of Russia, Valeriy Borshchev of Yabloko and Konstantin Borovoy of the Economic Freedom Party

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suggested the Duma leadership find out who had given permission to stage an exhibition in which some materials contained obscenities against Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other senior officials. They called on their left-wing colleagues "to refrain from political propaganda on the parliament's walls."

Seleznev agreed with Astrakhankina in describing the incident as an "act of vandalism."

Russia: Duma Concerned About Mass-Destruction Terrorist Attacks

LD1306191496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — Lawmakers at Russia' State Duma lower house of parliament appealed on Thursday to President Boris Yeltsin to convene an international conference in Moscow that would consider joint efforts to expose and prevent terrorist acts in which mass destruction weapons parts are used.

Lawmakers said the necessity to hold such a conference and make a treaty between the states concerned had been prompted by poor control over the movement of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons parts in a number of states.

The control has been getting more lax in some states recently, which raises the chances that mass destruction weapons parts can be used in terrorist acts, they said.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Yeltsin Seeks POW Exchange, Cease-Fire in Chechnya

LD1306164696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has stated that the main tasks of federal authorities on the current stage are to ensure the immediate exchange of prisoners and prevent new bloodshed in Chechnya, the spokesman for the Russian State Commission for Chechnya Settlement, Sergey Slipchenko, told Interfax Thursday.

Yeltsin believes that the pullout of federal troops from Chechnya should be timed to the disarmament of illegal armed formations, Slipchenko said.

Yeltsin instructed the commission chairman, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, urgently define and submit further measures to implement the agreements reached with Chechen opposition, Slipchenko said.

The commission plans to consider the agreements reached at the latest round of peace talks in Nazran Tuesday at its meeting on June 18, he said.

Russia: Chechnya's Yandarbiyev To Respond if Nazran Accords Violated

LD1306162296 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chechen opposition made it clear today that the situation could change radically if the parliamentary elections are held on 16 June. Our special correspondents in Chechnya have the details.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of Russian temporary joint forces in Chechnya, and Aslan Maskhadov, head of the main staff of the Chechen armed formations, met near the settlement of Novyye Atagi today to discuss the measures arising from the agreements signed in Nazran at the beginning of the week. Journalists were not allowed at the meeting.

Late last night Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the leader of the armed Chechen opposition, gave a news conference in one of the villages in the mountains.

Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said that his government and the parliament of the Republic of Ichkeria [Chechnya] were the only legal authorities in Chechnya. Only these bodies have the right to hold elections to the People's Assembly of the Chechen Republic.

[Yandarbiyev] Statements made by Doku Zavgayev and Moscow's indulgence toward him are in direct violation of the agreements reached in Nazran. One of the clauses, one of the sub-clauses signed there says that elections to any body of state power in the Chechen republic should be held only after the Russian troops are fully withdrawn.

[Correspondent] Talking about the possible action by the opposition following the decision of the official Groznyy to hold the elections to the People's Assembly on 16 June, Yandarbiyev said that they will take retaliatory measures.

[Yandarbiyev] We have levers and methods that we will use to respond to the violation of the agreements reached between the Russian and Chechen sides. We will respond. This is our right and we will not allow the Russian side deviate from the agreements unpunished.

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[Unidentified correspondent] Does that mean that you will resort to force in order to stop the elections?

[Yandarbiyev] That means everything.

[Correspondent] In Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev's words, for Chechnya the best outcome of the presidential elections, although these elections are the Russian Federation's internal affair, will be the victory of the democratic forces. In spite of the fact that Yandarbiyev personally prefers Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, to a question to whom Dzhokhar Dudayev's successor linked the continuation of democratic transformations in Russia, the leader of the Chechen opposition replied differently:

[Yandarbiyev] To Yeltsin.

[Correspondent] Shamil Basayev, the commander of the Chechen central front, was present at the news conference. [video shows Yandarbiyev addressing a news conference]

Russia: Pain Views Nazran Agreements, Date for Chechen Elections

LD1306173696 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Presidential council member Emil Pain made it clear in an interview with our television company that the center is keeping out of the collision [on local elections in Chechnya] for now.

[Begin Pain recording] The delegation of the state commission at the talks concluded an agreement that envisages the holding of elections after the demilitarization of the Chechen Republic. I am certain that elections involving all the political forces, after demilitarization, will indeed be held. For now I can only say what I have said. There are different options here — split elections [vybory v dva priema], new elections. There are various ways of solving the problem. For now, there is no evidence that the president or any other official of the Russian Federation intends to disavow the agreements achieved in Nazran. [end recording]

Russia: Chechen Statesman Predicts 'Disastrous' Parliamentary Elections

LD1306163696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 13 (Interfax) — A Chechen statesman who preferred to remain anonymous told Interfax Thursday that if elections to the Chechen parliament go ahead on June 16, the consequences could be disastrous.

Most of the present parliament's members and three quarters of its presidium are opposed to the elections, he said.

The statesman said that the decision to hold elections on that day is in conflict with the statement made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who believes that all political forces of Chechnya must be involved in the formation of the legislative branch in that republic.

"The ambitions of certain Chechen leaders jeopardize the peace processes in the republic," he said.

Russia: Chechen Leaders Fail To Meet With OSCE's Guldimann

LD1306134896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Yuriy Kirilchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — Chechen government leaders have not met Tim Guldimann, the chief of the Groznyy mission of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation [OSCE] in Europe, at 12.00 on Thursday, as planned previously.

Chechnya's Prime Minister Nikolay Koshman told Itar-Tass that the meeting did not take place as of 4.00 p.m.

"I do not know when this meeting will be held," Koshman said, adding that Chechen government leader Doku Zavgayev "so far has no time" for it.

The Moscow-backed Chechen government had accused Guldimann of bias.

Asked whether the government is going to expel Gudlimann from Chechnya, Koshman said, "Everything may happen."

Russia: Chechen Separatists Want Zavgayev Extradited

LD1306163796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTHERN CHECHNYA, June 13 (Interfax) — The Chechen separatist leadership intends to ask Russian federal authorities to extradite Chechen government leader Doku Zavgayev.

Zavgayev is accused of organizing terrorist acts against leaders of the Chechen opposition and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Chechnya, Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev told Interfax Thursday.

A series of explosions wounded seven members of a convoy carrying Chechen opposition figures and

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members of the OSCE mission from the Ingush capital of Nazran on June 11.

According to Yandarbiyev, an extradition plea will be submitted to the federal side on the basis of Point 1 of the Nazran agreement of June 10, which envisages joint actions to neutralize acts of terrorism and sabotage.

He also said the recent murder of Urus-Martan district administration head Yusup Elmurzayev had also been ordered by Zavgayev. According to Yandarbiyev, Elmurzayev was killed because he had repeatedly had public conflicts with Zavgayev.

Yandarbiyev named Boris Yeltsin as the presidential candidate most suitable for Russia's transition to democracy, despite the fact that the war in Chechnya was started during Yeltsin's presidency.

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Treaty on Power Demarcation in St. Petersburg

LD1306161596 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1420 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Russian state has left for Moscow. I have just been told that a report on the signing of the historic treaty on the demarcation of powers between St. Petersburg and Russia is ready to go on air.

[Begin Correspondent Konstantin Gavrilov recording] One of the major events of President Boris Yeltsin's current visit to St. Petersburg took place at 1700 today at the State Hermitage. The signing of the document, which will define the development of St. Petersburg and the region for the next few years, was held in St. George's Hall. The document in question is the treaty on the demarcation of responsibilities and powers between the bodies of state power in the Russian Federation and St. Petersburg.

Before the signing ceremony Boris Yeltsin made a brief speech in which he noted that the historic moment of collecting Russian lands had come. Then the official signing ceremony was held, which was attended by St. Petersburg Governor Vladimir Yakovlev and Governor of Leningrad Region Aleksandr Belyakov. [end recording]

Russia: LDPR Secretary Murdered in Kemerovo

LD1306141396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1401 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KEMEROVO, June 13 (Interfax-Eurasia) — An unidentified man gunned down Vladimir Oberderfer, the secretary of a regional branch of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) in Novokuznetsk, Siberia.

The killer came up to Oberderfer, who had stopped at a kiosk to buy cigarettes, and shot him in the head several times, reportedly from a gas pistol adjusted to fire 7.62 mm conventional bullets, the LDPR press service said in a press release on the incident Thursday.

The Kemerovo Interior Department confirmed the fact of murder to Interfax. At the same time, they said they did not know anything about Oberderfer's LDPR connections, saying he was the leader of a local criminal group.

Economic Issues

Russia: Expert Says Russia May See Rapid Economic Growth by 1997

LD1306210696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2032 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Vladimir Zadera and Konstantin Savvin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 14 (Itar-Tass) — Russia may see fast economic growth by 1997, provided that political stability is ensured, an expert of the Russian-European Centre for Economic Policy told reporters on Thursday [14 June].

According to him, a 6 percent rise in production is may be achieved in the nearest future.

The renovation of the Russian industry will one of the highlights of the end of this century, he said adding, however, that is will take place only if Russia continues its current economic policy.

There are several reasons why Russia's growth may outstrip Eastern European rates. Thus, the reduction in the defence sector has not only resulted in a deep industrial slump. It may also provide additional resources for a more dynamic production increase on the whole, he said.

Russia is rich in power resources and raw materials. However, their exports have not yet reached their due level because of foreign trade restrictions, the expert said.

As the restrictions are lifted, export revenue will rise, which will result in an increase in the imports of industrial equipment and consumer goods, he said.

Speaking of the first years of reform in Russia, he said there was a considerable production slump in the beginning, and consumption was down. However, the current consumption levels are higher than in 1992, he noted.

Russia's favourable trade balance of 15 billion US dollars in 1995 is another positive factor, according to him.

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In the meanwhile, director of the Russian Institute for Social and Political Research Gennadiy Osipov told TASS that up to 50 billion US dollars a year may be invested into Russia's economy, provided that the country ensures social and political stability.

The production slump and the collapse of obsolete industrial structures in the country gives Russia a good chance of bringing about an industrial revolution on the basis on new technologies, Osipov said.

If Russia follows this way, it will take it only 5-6 years to revive, instead of at least 14 years, as the communists say, he stressed.

National accord, which is an indispensable factor in creating a favourable investment climate, as well as legalisation of the co- called "fled" capital, might prompt a strong influx of investment, he said.

Osipov opposed raising tariffs on imported food stuffs. Moreover, he called for lowering them.

At the same time, he said the state should protect home producers from unfair competition, racket and other negative phenomena.

Russia: Official Says Gold Reserve Total 386 Tonnes

LD1306185896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Interfax) — On June 10, 1996, the Russian gold reserve amounted to 386 tonnes, acting Chairman of the Russian State Committee for Precious Metals Yuriy Kotlyar told a Thursday news conference in Moscow.

He said in 1992 the gold reserves of the country, including state reserves and gold kept at the Central Bank, were merely 290 tonnes.

Kotlyar does not find the situation in Russian gold mining disastrous. In his opinion this year minimal extraction can be 120 tonnes and maximum 126 tonnes.

However, the official said now that the government has only regulating functions the industry is very vulnerable to any political or economic change.

Russia: Official Says Delayed Pension Payments To Be Met by 20 Jun

LD1306174296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Liliya Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — A governmental official said on Thursday that Russian pensioners will receive money, delayed from May, before June 20.

Natalya Petrova of the Russian Pension Fund told Itar-Tass that June pensions are now being paid already in Russia's 29 regions which donate to the state budget.

The situation in other 60 regions which use government subsidies, is not so good, she admitted. In her words, May pensions have been paid only in 26 regions while in the remaining 34 regions delayed pensions have been paid by 72 percent, the total debt amounting to 809 billion roubles.

Financing is carried out from the Pension Fund's own means, Petrova stressed. The Russian Finance ministry is to transfer 337 billion roubles in June but the money will be available after June 17, she said.

Russia: Auditors Report 'Gross Violations' of Budget Law

LD1306165296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — Damage done to Russia's 1995 federal budget by the "financial misdemeanour" of different economic entities is estimated at more than 5.79 trillion roubles (about 1.2 billion dollars), according to the Auditing Chamber of the Russian Federation.

More than one trillion roubles of this amount was returned to the revenue as a result of the Chamber's activity, the country's supreme auditing body told the Federation Council upper house of parliament in a report today.

The auditors noted that their operational supervision had brought to light "a number of negative tendencies" in the execution of the federal budget.

Among them was "the extremely unsatisfactory payment of the non-tax incomes — from privatisation, the use of federal property and the profits of the Central Bank" towards the federal budget revenue.

Another negative tendency that surfaced clearly was "a trend of slowing down incomes in the banking system." A gap between the incomes declared by the State Tax Service of Russia and the Finance Ministry's Main Directorate for the Federal Treasury amounted to 10 and more trillion roubles, the report said.

The Auditing Chamber stressed in its report that "as a result of the dynamics of the gross domestic product and inflation growth rate, the budget revenues became much greater than planned from the second quarter of 1995,

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which created the possibility of providing 100-percent funding of all budget spending practically throughout the second half of the year," but the possibility was not realised.

The auditors stressed that in actual fact, the financing of all directions of spending, with the exception of two or three sectors, was much below the 100-percent level, as well as highly irregular.

The Chamber said the actual situation was caused by "gross violations of the law on the budget." It urged the Federal Assembly (parliament) as a whole to "assess the situation from principled positions" when debating the report on the budget execution which the government must submit to the parliament in keeping with the Constitution.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Spokesman Links WASHINGTON TIMES Nuclear Allegation to Aid

WS1406083996 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0704 GMT 14 Jun 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an interview with INFOBANK correspondent, the head of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry information department Yuriy Serheyev denied June 10 WASHINGTON TIMES report that Ukraine is allegedly selling nuclear know-how to Libya and is involved in military projects on Libya's territory. Yuriy Serheyev assumed that this report may have been "ordered" by the forces interested in blocking more help to Ukraine at the time of Congressional hearings on help to Ukraine that began June 13. Another reason behind the report could be unscrupulous competitors' efforts to exclude Ukraine from competing in a recently announced international tender for the construction of a railway in Libya.

Yuriy Serheyev voiced Foreign Ministry's concern over the fact that the story appeared soon after Ukraine had announced that it was free from all nuclear weapons. Another proof this anti-Ukrainian report was concocted is that, as Yuriy Serheyev pointed out, the press release issued by "To Defend America" Committee appeared simultaneously with the WASHINGTON TIMES story. The Committee includes 46 Democrat Senators. The press release authors quoting the WASHINGTON TIMES story oppose the allotment of additional financial help for the final stages of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament and other projects. On June 5 the US and Ukrainian ministers of defense have reached an agreement on $43 million additional help for Ukraine's final efforts to become a nuclear-free state.

Bill Herts, WASHINGTON TIMES reporter, quoting his American secret service sources, states that on President Kuchma's orders a special committee on cooperation with Libya was set up in Ukraine. In violation of the UN sanctions, the committee is selling nuclear know-how for Libya's nuclear program. The railway in question has a military importance. According to Yuriy Serheyev, these facts do not correspond to reality and are not proved documentally. He emphasized that no other US publication supported these accusations of Ukraine.

Ukraine: Kuchma on Impact of Russian Elections, Black Sea Fleet

LD1306194596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Anna Kovaleva, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The outcome of the presidential elections in Russia is bound to make an impact on Ukraine, President Leonid Kuchma believes.

"Our ties with Russia are very close," he told students of the Management Academy in his headquarters. "If the economy is used for political purposes, everybody understand what the consequences of the possible change of the guard in Moscow could be," Kuchma said.

"Ukraine will be under pressure with any outcome of the elections," but "if Zyuganov comes to power, our Left will be reinforced," he believes.

Kuchma confirmed that Ukraine will never agree to Sevastopol becoming the base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet alone.

On the other hand, "favorable conditions must be created for the Russian Black Sea Fleet to function in Sevastopol," Kuchma said. Some of the city's infrastructure without which it cannot do its job must be made available to the fleet, he said.

Kuchma said that the relations with Russia must be those of equals, which is not the case now. "We must be guided only by our national interests," he said.

The government reshuffle will continue, Kuchma said. New Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko will have a free hand in hiring and firing ministers "but I told him that he will also be held fully responsible for the government's performance," Kuchma said.

It is fair that the Ukrainian government is headed by an authority in agriculture, he said, referring to Lazarenko.

Kuchma criticized Energy Minister Aleksey Sheberstov and said that state administrations will also be reshuffled.

The government reshuffle should result in a more efficient implementation of the parliament-approved program, Kuchma's aide Valeriy Litvitskiy told a briefing in the presidential headquarters.

More resolute action in market reform is to be expected, he said. A restructuring of the economy will be in the focus of the government's attention, he said.

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The presidential policy is to reduce the tax burden of the producer, Litvitskiy said

It is chiefly indirect taxes that can be reduced, he explained. The reduction of taxes does not automatically lead to an increase on the production, Litvitskiy said.

Ukraine: Efforts Continue To Set Up Russian-Ukrainian Companies

LD1306190796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukraine and Russia are continuing effort to set up trans- national industrial companies and industrial- financial groups.

With the adoption by Verkhovna Rada of the law "Of industrial-financial groups" on May 7, "there is every legal ground to start its implementation", Ukraine's Vice-Premier in charge of Industry Anatoliy Kinakh, chairman of the interdepartmental commission for issues pertaining to setting up IFG told the first meeting of the commission in Kiev today. The Russian-Ukrainian interstate agreement on basic principles for the creation of IFG was signed in July last year, he recalled.

The meeting was told by Deputy Economics Minister Leonid Minin that the second meeting in the spring this year of the bilateral Russian-Ukrainian commission examined proposals on setting up five trans-national companies and industrial-financial groups.

The point at issue was the trans-national Formash amalgamation for the design and manufacture of the equipment for chemical fibres, which will be represented from the Ukrainian side by the Chimtextilmach stock company and Fortex company (Chernihiv), and from the Russian side — by the Formach company (Moscow).

Besides, proposals have already been outlined for the creation of the Transzernotechnika trans-national company for the manufacture and supply to agricultural enterprises of grain harvesting machines. It will include from the Ukrainian side four production amalgamations, including the Yuzhnoye design office (Dnipropetrovsk), Khersonskiye Combayny joint-stock company (Kherson) and a commercial bank, and from the Russian side — by the Rostselmach stock company, Komplexselhozmach company (Taganrog) and several commercial banks.

The trans-national company for the manufacture of oil and gas pipes may include from the Ukrainian side the metallurgical mill in Mariupol, the Azovstal metallurgical mill, the pipe-manufacturing plants in Khartsyzsk and Novomoskovsk, and from the Russian side — eight stock companies, including the metallurgical mills in Novolipetsk and Magnitogorsk and the Gazprom Russian Joint-Stock Company.

Proposals have also been outlined fro setting up a trans-national industrial financial group for the manufacture of titanium and rolled titanium (five Ukrainian participants and two Russian companies), a trans-national aluminium company (the Mykolayiv alumina plant from the Ukrainian side, and the Krasnoyarsk aluminium plant and Enisey financial-industrial corporation — from the Russian side).

The Prominvestbank was proposed to be a financial participant in the Russian-Ukrainian IFGs.

The effort is currently underway at the Economics Ministry to draw up regulations for the setting up, registration and closing of Industrial-financial groups, Minin told the meeting.

The meeting has endorsed nominations of leaders of five working groups on each of five bilateral trans-national companies and IFGs. The Economics Ministry together with industrial ministries have been allowed thirty days to submit proposals on possible participants in would-be IFGs and their listed products.

Ukraine: Kuchma Supports Conference of Mercosur, Black Sea States

LD1306183896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma has met (Carlos Manuel Muniz), president of the Argentine Council for International Relations, who is visiting Kiev with the aim of organizing a conference to be attended by member states of Mercosur (South Latin American economic union) and BSEC (the Black Sea Economic Cooperation), which is due to be held in Romania next year.

Kuchma expressed interest in expanding cooperation between Ukraine and Argentina and supported the idea of holding the conference, pointing out that "it will be useful for both organizations." Ukraine "will be doing all it can to ensure that the conference takes place," the Ukrainian president said.

Muniz said the main aim of holding the conference of Mercosur and BSEC is to exchange experience in carrying out economic reforms, outline prospects for cooperation, and work out recommendations for the governments of the member states of the two organizations so that they can step up cooperation. Heads of state are expected to attend the conference.

Mercosur includes Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.

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Ukraine: WTO Delegation Ends Visit

WS1406082196 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0059 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 13 — World Trade Organization officials completed a visited to Kiev Thursday to assist Ukraine's application scheduled to be considered at a meeting by GATT/WTO, June 24-25 in Geneva.

Head of the inter-department commission on issues of Ukraine's admittance to the GATT/WTO, the U.S. trade representative in Geneva, Ambassador Andrew Stoler and Advisor to WTO General Secretary on issues of admittance to GATT/WTO Hector Milan completed three days of meetings with the Cabinet of Ministers, ministries of Foreign Trade, Finance, National Bank of Ukraine and the State Customs Committee, according to a Foreign Trade Ministry statement.

Stoler said Ukraine relatively stable legislation will makes negotiations with GATT/WTO member-countries and investors easier: "I consider, Ukraine can join the organization within 1997. Ukraine's membership in the GATT/WTO will be its insurance policy and the guarantee of economic success."

Joining WTO means members could not apply discriminatory tariffs or other trade practices.

Stoler said Ukraine is ahead of most other WTO applicants, including Baltic countries, despite having started the application process earlier.

Ukraine: Border Guards Reportedly Introduce Tougher Procedures

LD1306132696 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The ARGUMENTY I FAKTY-NOVOSTI NEWS AGENCY reports that Ukrainian border guards have unilaterally introduced stricter border control procedures. Henceforth, all foreigners, including Russian citizens, will have to go through full border crossing formalities when entering Ukraine. Specifically, their passports will be stamped to show the date of entry.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma's Aide Vows Reshuffles, Tougher Financial Policy

WS1406085096 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0704 GMT 14 Jun 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Journalists who gathered for a briefing at the Presidential Administration in Kiev on Wednesday, June 12, failed to elicit any names from Valeriy Lytvytskyy, the President's aid for matters of economics and sort of liaison officer between the Presidential Administration and the Cabinet of Ministers. Instead, Mr Lytvytskyy stressed the economic reform course's irreversibility saying that only its weak points are subject to correction and adjustment to the mainstream core. According to the presidential aid, the impending changes will involve only tactical, rather than strategic, steps, with the new government likely to tighten its grip on the State's economic policies. As Mr Lytvytskyy said, the Cabinet's reshuffle will involve both personalities and structures, ministries included. These structural alterations will be accompanied by more rigid financial-monetary policies, which will continue to be viewed as pivotal in the government's reform battery. The presidential aid referred to current social welfare outlays as excessive.

Mr Lytvytskyy's utterances made one arrive at a conclusion that the new government will focus on austerity as a way to overcome the non-payment crisis. As Mr Lytvytskyy said, unearned wages should not be paid, and no efforts must be made to stabilize what needs restructuring. As the presidential aid stressed, the new government will have to display courage and determination to start structural reforms whatever the cost may be.

Ukraine: 'Source' Reports Ministers Fired; Cabinet Reshuffle Due

LD1306185396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1820 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 13 Jun — Cadre reshuffling has begun in the Ukrainian Government. Agriculture Minister Pavlo Haydutskyy and Oleksiy Sheberstov, minister of power and electrification, have been sacked, a source at the Ukrainian presidential administration office told ITAR-TASS today.

Documents are planned to be prepared on Friday to dismiss another four or five members of the government, the source said. It is not know yet who will occupy the situations vacant. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma gave the newly appointed Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko a free hand to form the Cabinet.

Employees of the Ukrainian Presidential Administration Office told ITAR-TASS that the posts of the deputy prime ministers and the ministers in charge for economic issues will also be vacant shortly. The president of Ukraine particularly intends to enhance this aspect of work.

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Ukraine: Justice Minister Denies Resignation Reports

LD1306220396 Kiev UT-2 Television Network in Ukrainian 1730 GMT 13 Jun 96

[No video available]

[FBIS Translated Text] INTERFAX-UKRAINA has recently carried information on an allegedly voluntary resignation of Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatyy, which became news for Holovatyy himself.

[Unidentified correspondent] Serhiy Holovatyy has refuted the information carried by some newspapers and news agencies on his resignation from the post of Ukrainian justice minister.

[Begin Holovatyy recording] There has been no statement anywhere. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Holovatyy said that he believes that the agitation concerning the post of minister of justice is unnecessary and groundless.

[Begin Holovatyy recording] The resignation of a minister is a matter for the minister and the president, who has appointed him, to settle. A new broom arrives with presidential elections and ministers are now appointed by the head of state. Therefore, certainly, it is up to him to make choices and to decide what to do in any particular circumstance. I took the post of justice minister in order to create in Ukraine a Ministry of Justice according to the European model. Many people above me reacted with cynicism about that and many people below me with skepticism. I cannot say that I am giving up my dream and that I do not want to continue with it. [end recording]

[Correspondent] As for personnel changes, let us wait for official information. In any case, the government will have to solve a number of acute problems that have accumulated over a long time, first of all wage arrears, which have exceeded the country's monthly wage fund on the whole. That means that if all the Ukrainian citizens agreed to work free of charge for a month the state will still owe them money. The arrears continue to accumulate.

Ukraine: General Prosecutor Rules Kuchma-Parliament Accord Valid

WS1406085396 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0704 GMT 14 Jun 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] General Prosecutor's office has issued a statement confirming that the Constitutional Agreement between the President of Ukraine and Parliament signed June 8 1995 is valid in accordance with its Chapters 1 and 4 and Article 60 till the adoption of a new Constitution. State prosecutors that supervise the execution of the law are to follow the regulations of the Constitutional Agreement.

According to General Prosecutor's press service, state prosecutors are filing inquiries as to the validity of the Constitutional Agreement after June 8, 1996. The Constitutional Agreement was originally signed for one year during which a new Constitution of Ukraine was to have been adopted.

During his June 11 meeting with the representatives of the Association of City Mayors of Ukraine which unites 82 cities, Ukraine's President called cynical the statements of some left-wing politicians that after the expiration on June 8 of the Constitutional Agreement the acting Constitution of Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic adopted before Ukraine became sovereign is valid.

Ukraine: Liberal Democratic Party Criticizes Draft Constitution

LD1306183096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 13 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The Liberal-Democratic Party of Ukraine (LDPU) described as "demagogic" the provisions in the draft new national constitution currently under discussion in Parliament.

"Each of the articles has a dual interpretation, which makes them dangerous to the society," party leader Volodymyr Klymchuk told a press-conference in Kiev Thursday.

As he put it, "both the Ukrainian President and Parliament Speaker, being men of the yesterday's system, are engaged in politicking, using the constitutional process to advertise themselves".

"The present Verkhovna Rada make-up is unfit to adopt the new Constitution," the Liberal-Democratic party claimed in a statement.

"The opportunity to convene a Constitutional Assembly has been lost," the liberal democrats believe. They intend to step up activities, expounding to the people "the need that the Constitution retains generally recognized human rights, the balance between branches of power and other civilized provisions".

"If these provisions are rejected in further readings of the draft constitution, the LDPU will demand that the

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President should set up a new constitutional committee with the participation of political parties and subsequently call a constitutional referendum".

The Liberal-Democratic Party was set up in 1992.

Ukraine: Kiev's Constitutional Amendments Rejected by Crimean MPs

LD1306165696 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of Crimea has failed to take a decision on 25 articles of the autonomy's constitution that were rejected by Kiev. None of the amendments to the draft constitution of Crimea, which had been proposed by the Supreme Council of Ukraine, was approved by the Crimean Parliament.

The Crimean deputies have adopted a resolution under which people's deputies of Ukraine from Crimea and members of the provisional commission set up to study the political and legal situation on the peninsula have been invited to Simferopol.

Ukraine: Kuchma's Press Secretary on Work, Press

WS1406084696 Lvov MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 8 Jun 96 pp 1,2

[Interview with Dmytro Markov, the Ukrainian president's press secretary, by Iryna Rudko; place and date not given: "In a Democratic State, Words Are Power" — first three paragraphs are MOLODA HALYCHYNA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] He is one of those individuals who are constantly in the focus of people's attention. Some are sympathetic with him, others envy him, and still others attempt to portray him as a "representative of the president's Dnepropetrovsk clan." Our guest today reacts to all this pretty calmly, particularly since he himself visited Dnepropetrovsk for the first time several months ago. Dmytro Markov is too moderate and intelligent to throw a gauntlet to anyone. He is on the presidential team, which means that he holds a position that commits him to certain things.

What is he like as a private person? Every morning, at dawn, he walks with his six-year-old friend, the mittleschnautzer called Tom. Yawning in sleep, the entire Kiev can check its clock against them: Every time it is the same hour and the same route. This friendship was tested by hundreds of thousands of kilometers and various circumstances. Even when Dmytro Markov worked at the Ukrainian Embassy in the United States, his dog was with him. They used to go together to the ocean shore, and they go fishing together now.

Can you call him a happy man? Yes. He once fell in love with his class mate in the ninth grade, and he still admires her (now, as his wife). As all lovers, he wrote verses in his youthful days, devoting them to his sweetheart. This, however, is an episode from his private life, and for now we will not lift the curtain covering it. For the time being, let us talk about a more mundane thing — his work — all the more since the Ukrainian mass media yesterday celebrated their professional holiday, which presents us with an opportunity to discuss the trade of journalism.

[Markov] What are the distinctive features of working in the press service of the Ukrainian president? I would not say that there are any special features. It is a typical press service, and I would not like it to be different from others. We perform the same function — we spread information. In addition, Leonid Kuchma issued a directive last year obligating us to coordinate the work of other press services of state institutions. Thus, we are a sort of coordinating center conducting a single informational policy in the state.

Such practices are not new. This is how it works in all democratic countries. For us, it is extremely important to receive feedback from press services of ministries, government institutions, and oblast state administrations. Notably, this is not at all patronizing or commanding, but a useful cooperation during which we identify key developments for regions so that they can stay on top of what is happening in the heart of our country. Our goal is to relay information to everyone, keeping the regions attached to the center and political power. This is a commonplace practice.

Generally speaking, the issue of information policies is extremely important for our president.

[Rudko] Can one say that the Ukrainian president starts his day by reviewing the press? Based on what guidelines do you select information for him?

[Markov] I do not think it is necessary to recall that the president is a very busy person. He can have up to 20 meetings daily. And these are not just loose conversations, it is complex and laborious work of a political and international nature. It has become a habit that Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] gets up early in the morning and shows up at work first. The task of our press service is to keep him informed about major press items and tendencies, press reaction to relevant decisions, and commentaries on certain developments. We do it in a concise form so as not to overwhelm the president with unnecessary information.

Within the course of a day, Leonid Kuchma receives all current news (usually, reports by news agencies and

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embassies). He reviews them with interest. He also likes to watch or listen to news reports. But it is during after-work hours at home and during holidays that he studies the press most thoroughly.

[Rudko] I wonder how Kuchma reacts to critical press reports?

[Markov] You mean what is it about Kuchma and working with him that I like most? There are quite a few people who view criticism against them as a bad work of press services. Honestly, I expected the same reaction from the president. But I was mistaken, Leonid Danylovych is a very wise person. He always tries to understand what is behind such criticism. I would even say that he never pays attention to publications that are explicitly positive toward him. Instead, he always looks for materials that may offer a constructive piece of advice. In percentage terms, Leonid Kuchma prefers critical press by 75 percent.

[Rudko] What is the president's favorite newspaper, and what does he read?

[Markov] He enjoys reading KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, which he reads on a regular basis. This is understandable, because here — in the Kiev community — this is the most popular publication. It also has the largest circulation, which makes it an efficient channel of providing information. Although this paper prefers to pitch information in the so-called popular way, you can always find something for an analyst there. In addition, the paper put together a good editorial staff, which is a valuable asset.

The president also reads ZERKALO NEDELI, HOLOS UKRAYINY, URYADOVYY KURYER, and PRAVDA UKRAYINY. He is also interested in some Russian papers (KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, for example) — a preference that has probably developed over many years.

[Rudko] [Famous Ukrainian poet] Ivan Franko wrote that "how weighty a word is." Do you think that the printed word now fully performs its state-making and other functions?

[Markov] In democratic states, the word meands power, and a two-sided factor influencing public opinion. [Do you want to know about] my attitude toward words and the national industry of words? Unfortunately, the press is experiencing the same crisis as the rest of the country. At present, the mass media, in many respects, resemble a toy in the hands of two power branches, as well as various powers and groups pursuing their own political or economic interests. This is why I would not say that we have a democratic press. We still should go a long way to make the [printed] word produce a desired effect. I am pleased that the president, who realizes the significance of this issue, readily meets with representatives of the opposition mass media. To make the press a genuine fourth power in Ukraine, we first of all need to establish a developed, civilized system of informational interaction.

[Rudko] Until recently, you have worked as a Ukrainian diplomat in the United States. This allowed you to study the American press. Did you notice any similarities to our press, as opposed to just differences?

[Markov] There are certain tendencies for rapprochement between us. We have finally gotten rid of the telephone right [reference to politicians making phone calls to newspapers to influence materials they publish] and the habit of relaying newspapers' plans "up on high." Things became simpler and our journalists have more room for their activities. On the other hand, if someone thinks that the U.S. press is absolutely independent and out of control of the powers that be, they are mistaken. The press there depends to a large extent on a system exerting a pervading and powerful influence on the mass media, which works through various, interesting methods and forms. They include, for example, closed briefings, informing only editors on the necessity, or lack thereof, of certain information, and so on. Official circles closely watch what is published, and their relations with the press resemble that of a well-regulated clock. In our country, we try to cooperate with journalists based on mutual trust.

What are the other distinctive features? It is a different perception of the role played by the press in society and different mechanisms of interaction between the press and authorities.

Yes, there are pretty harsh forms and methods of cooperation with the press — also in the United States. I, however, would like to conduct dialogue in a civilized way.

[Rudko] Since we have touched upon international issues, do you not think that our embassies in other countries fail to perform propaganda functions? The West still pictures Ukraine as a country anguished by famine, labor camps, Chernobyl, and economic instability, which only waits for humanitarian aid.

[Markov] This is our problem, and I absolutely agree with you. Unfortunately, we have not yet established powerful press services abroad. Worse, many embassies (except for those in Moscow and Washington) do not have even a single diplomat responsible for public relations. Of course, we are trying to bridge this gap, holding every briefings every other week for foreign journalists accredited in our country. We also provide infor-

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mation through Foreign Ministry and embassy channels. When hosting foreign journalists in our press center, we want to provide them with as much first-hand and unbiased information as possible. For such briefings, we invite the most prominent experts to explain the economic situation in Ukraine, our investment policy, and Ukraine's political outlook. This has become a good tradition by now.

Perhaps such meetings provide grounds for confidence that the press will definitely become the fourth power in Ukraine.

[Rudko] Well, let us hope that there will be more and more such good traditions through which the world will learn about us with the help of the printed word and journalists coming to our press center. In conclusion, let me ask you the following question: Do you agree with the opinion that journalism is a disease which it is difficult to cure?

[Markov] It surely is! You have to believe someone who has been in this business for more than 20 years and knows all the ins and outs of this trade. Journalism is a real dangerous disease which completely overwhelms you and of which you cannot (or rather do not want to) get cured. And this disease is much more interesting and attractive than a seat in an office.

[Rudko] Sir, I would like to thank you for the conversation. On behalf of MOLODA HALYCHYNA readers and Lvov journalists, I would like to congratulate you on the Day of Ukrainian Journalists.

P.S. By the way, the Ukrainian president's press service is not the largest one (it is the third largest service in our state after the corresponding services in the Foreign and Interior Ministries), even though it has more responsibilities. Dmytro Markov's work day starts at 0800 and ends at [as published]. Lunch? It usually becomes a late supper because the numerous meetings and talks leave no time for lunch. This time, Mr. Markov has not eaten lunch, either. Please accept our apologies.

[Paragraph published in a box] Dmytro Yukhymovych Markov, press secretary of the Ukrainian president. An experienced journalist and diplomat. He worked in the foreign-language broadcast department of the Ukrainian Radio and at the Ukrainian Embassy in the United States. Character traits: extremely tolerant, balanced, friendly, and punctual. Hobbies: reading, taking pictures, computers. Superstitions — none. Black cats that sometimes cross his way have no influence on his mood and introduce no changes to his daily work habits. Best friend: six-year-old Thomas-Marcus-Ronklid. Life motto: God helps those who help themselves.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Cabinet Passes Decision on Measures To Outline 1997 Budget

LD1306170996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1252 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 12 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The Ukrainian Cabinet has passed a decision on measures to outline Ukraine's draft national budget-97.

The Ukrainian Economics Ministry, the Finance Ministry, the National Bank of Ukraine as well as other ministries and departments have been instructed to draw up main predictive macroindices of economic and social development of Ukraine for 1997 by mid-June. The indices for the next three year are to be drawn up by July 5, an Interfax - Ukraine correspondent was told at the Government press service.

The paper contains a detailed list of the most important indices, which must be reflected in the draft state budget for next year.

Ukraine: Lazarenko, Cabinet Discuss Energy Sector Problems

WS1406085696 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0704 GMT 14 Jun 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to reports by UKRINFORM's energy correspondent, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers met at the Tiraspol hydroelectric power station, near Kiev, on June 12 to discuss Ukraine's energy problems. The Cabinet of Ministers held the meeting in order to discuss ways of resolving Ukraine's seasonal energy problems and prepare Ukrainian enterprises for the autumn-winter period. Ukraine's Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko also invited senior officials of regional energy generation associations and enterprises to the meeting so that they may participate in discussions on mechanisms for coping with the seasonal energy crisis as well as to discuss market transformations in the energy sector. Mr. Lazarenko said that the government and enterprises must share responsibilities for the sector.

Speaking at the Cabinet meeting, Vice Premier Roman Shpek noted that the current non-payment crisis is the result of high-spending and ineffective production policies. He emphasized the need for enterprises to cut energy losses and sell their products at market prices. He also called on Ukrainian energy generation enterprises to attract funds from commercial banks and international

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financial organizations rather that rely solely on government funding. The Cabinet meeting adopted proposals on ways of cutting power consumption and production cost as well as proposals on ways of providing assistance to domestic power generation enterprises.

Ukraine: Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Budget Deficit

LD1306190896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over the four months of 1996, Ukraine's budget deficit totalled 5.8% of the GDP. Eighty percent of the deficit were compensated by direct monetary financing Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic reform Viktor Pynzenyk disclosed.

Addressing the international conference "Progress in economic reforms in Ukraine" currently in session in Kiev, V. Pynzenyk disclosed that net proceeds from the accommodation of government obligations totalled 33 trillion krb [karbovantsi] over the said period.

Despite the fact that the volume of government obligations accommodated every month totals around 4 trillion krb, it will be "rather difficult" to reach the budgetary target for drawing funds (150 trln krb) by the end of the year through accommodation of government domestic loan bonds.

Among the factors inhibiting the development of the government obligations market, V. Pynzenyk mentioned the outstanding problem of taxation of proceeds from domestic loan bonds.

According to him, the high profitability and liquidity of the bonds in a situation where many enterprises are "financially sick", is shifting commercial banks towards this kind of activity. In this case, much of the funds accumulated through domestic loan bonds settle down in the shadow sector instead of returning to the banking system.

Thus, according to V. Pynzenyk, since January 1, 1995 the volume of funds circulating outside the banking sphere has grown from 79 to 280 trln.krb, i.e. 3.5 fold.

These processes, according to him, have caused a drop in the real volumes of crediting the economy. Thus, over the four months of 1996, real crediting declined 20 per cent.

In V. Pynzenyk's view, the draft state budget for 1997 should discontinue direct monetary financing of budget deficit in favor of covering it by issuing state treasury obligations and through external sources.

According to him, this measure should be supplemented with steps towards a legalization of the shadow sector by imposing taxes on the turnover in this sector. Something has been done to this end, the Deputy Prime Minister disclosed, explaining that he meant first of all a reduction in the basic rates of profit taxes.

According to the State Budget '96, as approved by the Parliament of Ukraine on March 22, the budget deficit limit is set at 461,745.4 bln.krb, which is tantamount to 6.2% of the GDP. This is in compliance with Ukraine's commitments to international financial organizations. The revenue side of the State Budget '96 was set at 2,390,864.7 bln.krb, while outlays — at 2,852.610.1 bln.krb. The funds for covering budget '96 deficit will be raised from sales of government securities — 150 trln. Krb, from external sources — 204 trln.krb. And National Bank credits — 107 trln.krb.

Ukraine: Finance Ministry Believes Foreign Bonds Inexpedient

LD1306184896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 13 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Ukrainian Ministry of Finance believes issuing state securities in foreign currency is inexpedient, Deputy Minister of Finance Serhiy Makatsariya told a roundtable conference in Kiev Thursday. The roundtable conference is devoted to the reform of Ukraine's financial sector.

At the same time, he underlined that Ukrainian legislation did not restrict foreign banks' operations on the domestic stock market. After a foreign bank has its office registered in Ukraine, it may purchase securities through authorized Ukrainian banks, he said.

Operations on the market of Ukrainian currency bonds intensified considerably at the start of the second quarter of the year, Makatsariya said.

Sales of the bonds rose from 16.5 trillion karbovantsy in the first quarter of 1996 to 50.0 trillion karbovantsy now, he said. The budget received only 11 percent of the planned revenues from the issue of the bonds in the first quarter, he recalled.

The bonds were designed to cover as much as 150 trillion karbovantsy of budget expenditures in 1996.

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Belarus

Belarus: Minister Says No Disruption in Nuclear Withdrawal Program

LD1306122296 Moscow Interfax in Russian 1114 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] MINSK, Jun 13 (Interfax-West) — Belarus has not disrupted the schedule for removing nuclear arms from its soil, as spokesmen for the Russian Strategic Forces command said in early June, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Khvostov told a news conference in Minsk on Thursday.

There are no reasons for delaying compliance with the relevant agreement and so the last missile will leave Belarus by the end of this year, the diplomat said.

Officials from the Belarussian Defense Ministry and the U.S. Defense Department in Minsk last week signed an amendment to the bilateral agreement under the Nunn-Lugar program for destroying strategic offensive weapons, nuclear infrastructure, missile fuel, and launching pads, Khvostov said. The amendment provides for allocating another $12.9 million in addition to the initial $16 million allocated for these needs.

"Belarus has never removed the possibility of establishing a nuclear-free zone in the heart of Europe from its agenda," he pointed out. In this connection, a meeting between the foreign ministers of Belarus, Poland, and Ukraine will be held in the near future on the initiative of Belarussian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko. Those at the meeting will focus on the possibility of implementing the plan for establishing a nuclear-free zone. The diplomat said that this idea "can be set off against the plans for NATO's eastward expansion."

Belarus: Official Criticizes Belarus-EU Trade Treaty Suspension

WS1406085596 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0704 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 13 June — The Committee for External Policy in the European Parliament demanded that the EU leadership suspend the implementation of the Provisional Trade Agreement between Belarus and the EU because of the infringement of human rights in the country. Speaking at a news conference on June 13 Mikhail Khvastow, Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, confirmed this information which was spread by the foreign media. In this regard he said, "As for me I see some inconsequence in European bodies' policy. Everybody understands rather well that Belarus should not be left non-included into European process." In Mr. Khvastow's opinion, the decision of the European Parliament's Committee was influenced by "personal approaches". Mr. Khvastow avoided commenting on the infringement of human rights. He stressed that if any obstacles are put on the way of cooperation between the country and European states within the framework of the EU, Belarus will be able to continue this cooperation on the basis of bilateral relations.

Belarus: Interior Minister Holds First News Conference

WS1406100296 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0704 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 13 June — On June 13 top-ranking officials at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, led by the minister, Major-General Valyantsin Ahalyets, gave the first news conference since Yuryy Zakharenka was dismissed from the post of minister in October of 1995 according to a presidential decree. It should be noted that when Zakharenka was in office news conferences were regularly convened at the Ministry. In addition the 13 June assembly should be defined as an introduction ceremony rather than a news conference. BELAPAN correspondents were not among those invited. Nevertheless it became known that those present were informed on the activities of the Ministry's bodies in 1996 and the tasks confronting the Ministry.

Belarus: KGB Denies Death of Opposition Leader in Custody

LD1306171296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, June 13 (Interfax-West) — The Belarussian KGB has refuted media reports about the alleged death of the leader of the ultraright movement The Right Revanche, Slavamir Adamovich, in its detention facility.

Belarussian law enforcers detained Adamovich in late May as he tried to enter Lithuania illegally.

The Belarussian Prosecutor General's Office had instituted criminal proceedings against him, but released him on an undertaking not to leave the city. Adamovich published a poem entitled "Kill The President" in the Nasha Niva newspaper.

The opposition leader went on hunger strike in the detention facility.

"Adamovich's condition has somewhat worsened over the recent days, but he is constantly being examined by medical workers,"

KGB press service chief Gennadiy Sinyukov told Interfax Thursday.

Adamovich was allowed to see his wife and the Nasha Niva editor Tuesday, he said. The Prosecutor General's Office is considering Adamovich's appeal for bail, he said.

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Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: Qazhygeldin Spells Out Support for Kremlin Policy

LD1306193496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin in an interview with Interfax called for CIS integration, but with each member state retaining its sovereignty and open society and economy.

He said Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's policy was in line with Almaty's and Moscow's drive for closer friendship and integration.

On Russia's presidential poll on June 16, the prime minister said he was hopeful for Yeltsin's election victory.

He expressed fears that Russian Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov's arrival in power might affect bilateral relations. The prime minister warned about a possible disaster if the Communists drove a policy of overhauling the sovereignty of CIS states to bring them into one union.

He said he would never agree to a Zyuganov-proposed union.

The prime minister was critical of the Communists' election platform saying Russia's market reforms would be rolled back if they came in office.

But he said that any changeover in Moscow would in no way affect Almaty's policy of further economic reforms. IF Note: Kazakhstan is sending a group of 17 observers to monitor Russia's presidential election, Yelena Kuleshova of the country's central electoral commission told Interfax. She said they will oversee the polling in Moscow and St Petersburg and nearby cities of Astrakhan, Orenburg, Samara, Chelyabinsk, Omsk and Barnaul.

Kuleshova said the Russian experience will be useful for Kazakhstan which will have its own presidential election in the year 2000.

Kazakhstan: Communist Party Chairman Abdildin on Support for Zyuganov

BR1406091396 Copenhagen POLITIKEN in Danish 13 Jun 96 p 7

[Interview with Serikbolsyn Abdildin, Communist Party chairman in Kazakhstan, by Michael Jarlner in Almaty; date not given: "Zyuganov Is Better"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jarlner] The leaders of the CIS countries recently declared their support for Yeltsin. What is your view on this?

[Abdildin] I believe it was wrong to interfere with the Russian election campaign. But I find it difficult to assess Yeltsin's efforts as anything but negative. Time after time he has failed to get the economy working, integrate industry, and improve social conditions. Zyuganov would be better at fulfilling this task.

[Jarlner] Looking back, what makes you believe that the Communists can fulfill the task?

[Abdildin] The Communists do not want to reintroduce the Soviet system. We are against a planned economy and support a market- oriented economy. But in fact there were many things in the Soviet era that were good.

[Jarlner] Nonetheless the system collapsed.

[Abdildin] Many people believe that Zyuganov will reintroduce the former Communist regime. But we are talking about a new generation of leaders who support both a multiparty system and a mixed economy. The present leaders cannot be made responsible for the Stalin era.

[Jarlner] As an inhabitant of a former Soviet republic, are you not concerned that earlier this year the Russian Communists got the Duma to invalidate the 1991 agreement that led to the break-up of the Soviet Union?

[Abdildin] That was not the expression of any attempt to reintroduce the Soviet Union, but merely a declaration stating that the agreement was illegal.

[Jarlner] But it was surely understood as indicating that the Russian Communists would like to see a revival of the Soviet Union?

[Abdildin] It was a political signal. Kazakhstan is subject to international law like any independent state. But we support an extension of cooperation between the CIS countries, in the same way that the Europeans are working together. However, perhaps we might be able to consider something along the lines of the European Parliament.

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Kazakhstan: Almaty Plans To Issue $100 Million Worth of Eurobonds

LD1306163596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, June 13 (Interfax) — Kazakhstan plans to obtain a credit rating in the fourth quarter of 1996 that will enable it to issue $100 million worth of Eurobonds and distribute them on the U.S., European and South East Asian financial markets, Kazakh Minister of Finance Aleksandr Pavlov told a news conference in Almaty Thursday.

Holland's leading bank, ABN AMRO, the winner of an international tender attended by 17 banks, will manage the project, Pavlov said.

The projected profitability of Eurobonds issued for various terms ranging from two to three years will stand at 10 percent a year, Kazakh Deputy Minister of Finance Sauat Mynbayev told Interfax's Financial Information Agency.

Kazakhstan can hope to obtain a BB credit rating, Mynbayev said. Mexico and South Africa have the same rating. Kazakhstan's rating will be determined by either Moody's Investors Service or Standard & Poor's, he said.

The main purpose of the Eurobond issue is to create a credit history for Kazakhstan and diversify sources of public financing, Mynbayev said. The republic expects the first profits by the end of this year, he said.

To date, Kazakhstan has distributed securities only on the domestic market.

Kazakhstan: Goverament, Islamic Development Bank Sign Accord

LD1406070996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0656 GMT 14 Jun 96

[By Yelena Poluyanova and Lyudmila Bondartsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY June 14 (Itar-Tass) — Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin of Kazakhstan and Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding about the republic's IDB membership.

At the same time the two sides signed an agreement on the rendering of technical assistance to Kazakhstan in the form of a gratuitous credit of 298,000 U.S. dollars for the construction of a Karaganda-Akmola highway.

When receiving Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan emphasised that he highly appreciates the republic's entry as full member into the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the IDB. He also said that he intends to attend the forthcoming IDB summit, which is due to be held in Istanbul.

At an ensuing press conference, Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali mentioned IDB's three priorities in financing assistance to Kazakhstan. It is primarily a question of participation in the development of the infrastructure of the republic's capital. Besides, the IDB intends to act as intermediary in export-import operations between Kazakhstan and other IDB member-countries and promote the training of personnel for the young sovereign state.

Kazakhstan: Media Chief Reviews Problems, Progress

LD1406095396 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Jun 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Altynbek Sarsenbayev, the chairman of the National Agency for Press and Media of the Republic of Kazakhstan: "We have crossed the Rubicon, and there will be no turning back to bankrupt socialism." His details: 33 years of age, born in the village of Kaynar in Narynkol District, Almaty Region; graduated from the journalism faculty of the "Lomonosov" Moscow State University; from August, 1985: agricultural editor, senior editor of the office for Soviet and foreign news of KazTAG news agency. From 1987: editor of a department and executive secretary of the ARAY-ZARYA magazine. From March, 1989: editor-in-chief of the republican students' newspaper ORKEN-GORIZONT. From March, 1992: head of the culture and international relations department of the apparatus of the president and Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan. From August, 1992: head of the domestic policy department of the apparatus of the president and Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

From January, 1993: minister of press and mass information of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Since October, 1995: chairman of the National Agency for Press and Mass Media of the Republic of Kazakhstan, co-chairman of the Democratic Party of Kazakhstan. [passage omitted]

[KAZAKHSTANKSKAYA PRAVDA] Reforms are gathering pace one way or another in all sectors. But is the reform of the state media confined to the establishment of your agency and its removal from the guardianship of the representative and executive authorities?

[Sarsenbayev] [passage omitted] There are over 1,500 independent publications in this country, where there

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were only state publications five years ago. Only 26 republican publications are funded from the state budget. These are mainly the newspapers of ethnic minorities, such as Uygur, Korean, German, and similar papers. They need to be supported, since they have no chance of surviving under market conditions because of the small number of subscribers.

The subject of Kazakh-language newspapers is of particular importance. The objective position of the Kazakh language has led to a position where Kazakh-language newspapers are likewise not self-financing. The main source of income for newspapers is advertising, and advertisers place their material in the language that is spoken by 95 percent of the population. This deprives Kazakh-language newspapers of an additional source of income. That is why they need state support, and it is being provided. I do not understand those unjustified critics who go about saying that no attention is being paid to the development of the state language. Here are some specific figures. Last year alone, a total of 350 book titles with a print run of over 6 million were published in Kazakh with state support, and 17 newspapers and magazines are being published. Does this not amount to support?

[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] It is no coincidence that KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA is by force of inertia called the main semi-official organ of the government of the republic. The state has cultivated this notion for decades, for example, through KazTAG material which had to be published. The times seem to have changed, and the note "lettered" [liternaya] has disappeared, but KazTAG still looks like an intermediary between the president and the newspapers.

[Sarsenbayev] To be honest, I myself do not understand the system under which KazTAG works. There is nothing like it abroad, either. As far as I know, the Khabar television news agency has rejected its services. Isn't it nonsense when an organization that is financed by the state budget and has a priority right to disseminate official information tries to sell that information to the state media? Who needs such a budget-funded intermediary? I think the system must be different. All official information must come to our agency, and on the same day, we must circulate it to all publications, state and independent alike, free of charge. KazTAG must survive on the information market on the basis of competition, obtaining its own information.

What makes me think that is the fact is that virtually no independent publications use KazTAG's material. As for the publication of official material as a whole, this is by no means evidence of a failing, but on the contrary, it raises a publication's rating. Concerning the division into what are dubbed official and independent publications, I should note that I know of only one newspaper in Kazakhstan (KARAVAN) which lives on advertising income alone, whereas all the rest are published with their founders' funds. As practice shows, a private founder, unlike state bodies, is much tougher in his approach to his newspaper's line. [passage omitted]

[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] Let us have a talk about the new draft law on the press. Maybe it is good that the deputies have not reached it yet, for it is no secret that it is easier to correct imperfections in advance—and such faults do, unfortunately, exist. For example, the absurd words about a total ban on interfering in citizens' private lives has disappeared from draft law. Instead of that, a ban on defamation—on publishing material with dubious and false content—has been introduced. Such lack of clarity is sure to give cause for a multitude of legal proceedings with unconvincing results

One more thing. The article entitled "The right to receive information" has been subjected to serious amendments. It includes an obligation on the media to "provide each citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the opportunity to familiarize himself with documents, decisions, and sources of information which touch upon his rights and interests." It is not clear how this obligation fits in with the right of a publication, stipulated in the draft law, to keep an informer's or author's identity secret if he so wishes.

[Sarsenbayev] I must admit that I am coming across the term "defamation" for the first time. There were no such "tricks" in our draft law. Obviously, this is the result of intervention by the Ministry of Justice. I agree that there is an obvious absurdity in the second case. There have been so many versions of this draft law that it is very possible that the one you have not received is not the very latest. In any case, it will have to be studied carefully once again.

If the new press law does not become more democratic and progressive than the existing one, then there is no sense in discussing and adopting it.

[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] The press means not only newspapers, but book-publishing too. Bearing in mind that you recently wrote in detail in our newspaper about the state of affairs in that field, we would nevertheless like to know whether there has been any progress in lifting value-added tax on book-publishing?

[Sarsenbayev] This is a headache for me today, a sort of unbreakable wall. Having received a rejection from the government financial structures of my proposal to

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lift value-added tax, I have now asked presidential structures to return to this matter again. For example, value-added tax on books is five percent in the United States and it does not exist at all in Great Britain. It is logical to introduce this tax in order to prevent excessive production when there is a surplus. However, in our circumstances, when there is a disastrous book shortage, you will agree that the introduction of value-added tax is tantamount to a knock-out blow. As for specific measures to improve the state of the book market, I recently set those out in some detail in your newspaper.

[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA] Obviously, we must say something about the reform of television, with particular reference to how quickly Khabar is developing.

[Sarsenbayev] And if you have noticed, this applies not only to its news section. This agency is also making rapid progress in expanding its programs on specific subjects and its entertainment output. I would say that a new, intelligent hand has put its mark on state television.

However, unfortunately, we have still not defined social importance should speak on television. Unfortunately, we very often have nothing but "soapbox orators" spouting. [passage omitted]

Tajikistan

Tajikistan: UN Envoy Meets Rakhmanov, Calls For 'Complete' Cease-Fire

LD1306174396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — "Our main task in the intra-Tajik conflict today is to achieve a complete ceasefire," Special Envoy of the U.N. Secretary-General Merrem stated here after his meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov, which took place behind closed doors.

Merrem stressed that a constructive intra-Tajik dialogue could be continued only after a ceasefire.

However, he avoided answering the question about the U.N. proposed agenda, especially concerning the formation of a coalition government. "Our task is to help the sides settle the intra-Tajik conflict," he curtly replied.

The U.N. Secretary-General's special envoy praised the statement made by the Dushanbe authorities, which guarantees safety to the members of the Joint Conciliation Commission charged with ensuring the observance of the Teheran ceasefire agreement both within the republic and on the Tajik-Afghan border. He expressed the hope that the Commission would shortly resume its work after a 4-month interval.

Merrem said that he told the Tajik President again during their talk here that, he was sure the intra-Tajik conflict could be settled only by means of talks.

Asked about the time when the current round of the negotiations would be resumed, Merrem said that this would most likely be in the first half of July.

Tajikistan: Rakhmanov, UN Envoy Discuss Work of Observer Mission

LD1406064796 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov has received Dietrich Merrem, the UN secretary general's special envoy in Tajikistan. During the conversation, Mr. Merrem spoke about his meetings with opposition leaders in Tehran and representatives of observer countries concerned about the Tajik settlement. He summarized the content of the report by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali about the work of the UN observer mission in Tajikistan since March this year, which the Security Council has received.

At Dietrich Merrem's request, Emomali Rakhmanov described the current situation in the country. He confirmed again the principled position of the leadership of the republic — to tackle all issues concerning Tajikistan only through talks — and emphasized the government's interest in resuming the inter-Tajik dialogue in the first 10 days of July.

In this c[illegible], the head of state expressed his wish that the joint commission overseeing observance of the Tehran agreement on a cease-fire and on other hostile acts resume its work as soon as possible. Emomali Rakhmanov gave assurances that the government will take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of members of the joint commission. As for the issue of the free movement of UN staff in the republic, the president said that the government will take a balanced approach, bearing in mind the accident with one of the military observers last year and guided first by concern for the safety of the UN members.

After this meeting, Dietrich Merrem told journalists that there is complete mutual understanding between himself and Emomali Rakhmanov about the need for very painstaking elaboration of all the details of the forthcoming Ashgabat round of talks and for the joint commission to resume work. We are only mediators in the inter-Tajik talks, the special envoy said. The main thing is to achieve a complete cease-fire, and after that decide how to continue peaceful talks, Dietrich Merrem concluded.

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Tajikistan: Russians Forecast More Aggravation on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1306173296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — "The Command of the Russian Federal Borderguard Service does not rule out that the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border may aggravate this summer and the opposition may attempt to break through it in some places," Assistant Director of the Federal Borderguard Service and Chief of Staff of the Russian Borderguard Troops Colonel-General Aleksandr Tymko told journalists here today. The most probable places where such attempts may be made include the Pamir foothills and the Moskovskiy and Pyanj sectors of the border. Their purpose will be to divert the attention of Russian borderguard troops.

General Tymko, who has completed his working trip to Tajikistan, said that this could be the last attempt to achieve a large-scale breakthrough, because "the opposition's military, technical and manpower potential was not inexhaustible. Certain Arab military and political forces are unable to finance the Islamic fundamentalists endlessly. The reserves for replenishing their ranks are also not inexhaustible. The opposition gangs are mainly replenished by refugees, who had fled to Afghanistan. However, they are not very numerous and many of them are returning home, to Tajikistan", he pointed out.

During his 3-day visit to Tajikistan, Tymko inspected the Russian borderguard units there and visited some sectors of the border guarded by the Kalaikhum, Pyanj, and Moskovskiy detachments. The General highly assessed the fighting ability of the group of Russian borderguards in Tajikistan. He said it was able to reliably guard the state border with Afghanistan and to repulse any attempts to violate it.

"Although up to two thousand opposition fighters are concentrated against Russian borderguards both on the Afghan side of the border and in Gorno-Badakhshan, the latter have enough means to beat off any external aggression," Commander of the Russian Borderguard force in Tajikistan, Lieutenant-General Pavel Tarasenko said during Tymko's meeting with journalists here. "If the opposition fighters and their leaders possess ample information about our striking power, they should think twice before embarking upon such a senseless venture," he stated.

General Tymko left for Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, on Thursday morning.

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Armenia

Armenia: Ter-Petrosyan Warns Against Communist Victory in Russia

LD1306174096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Sergey Kolmakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — "A communist comeback in Russia will be a real disaster," Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan told French businessmen here on Wednesday.

"President Yeltsin must win... As to all the rest of the world, it must know that the communists, if they come to power by legal means, will grow even more impudent and dangerous than when they came to power by force," Ter-Petrosyan stressed.

"If Boris Yeltsin remains at the helm and continues the reforms," the Armenian President is sure, "Russia will be an absolutely different country within the next four years. The communists will no longer have the same influence as they enjoy today."

Armenia: Official on Nonparticipation in Baku Black Sea Meeting

NC1306194796 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1600 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The plenary session of the Interparliametary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation took place in Baku on 13 June. The Armenian delegation did not take part in its deliberations. Why? An ARMENPRES correspondent put this question to Vahagn Mkrtichyan, head of the press service of the Armenian National Assembly. He said: For us there was no purpose in attending that session. Let me remind you that the representatives of the Azerbaijani parliament themselves did not attend the session of the political committee the same organization held in Yerevan in November 1994. Besides, in our view the invitation sent to the chairman and the delegation of the National Assembly was not properly drawn up. Despite that, I have to note that Armenia is a founding member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and hence will continue to actively participate in all the regional (?activities) of this organization.

Armenia: President in France for Working Visit

LD1406061696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0609 GMT 14 Jun 96

[By Igor Shchyogolev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS June 14 (Itar-Tass) — France in earnest considers the question of building a nuclear power station for Armenia, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said here on Thursday after a meeting with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. French Minister also called for expediting the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process, pointing out that on the whole the process evolves "in the right direction".

For his part, the Armenian president called on France to take an active part in the quest for a solution to the Karabakh issue. During an official dinner given in his honour by French President Jacques Chirac, the Armenian leader emphaised that the political way to overcome the conflict runs through the development of dialogue with Azerbaijan.

At the close of his three-day working visit to France, the President of Armenia left for Yerevan by air on Thursday. While in Paris, he also held talks with Prime Minister Alain Juppe and National Assembly President Philippe Seguin.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Receives Russian Duma Speaker Seleznev

LD1306140596 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Correspondent Mais Mamedov from Baku; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev took part in a session of the bureau of the parliamentary assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation, whose general session will be held here tomorrow. At midday, the Russian parliamentary delegation met their Azerbaijani counterparts. It was noted that the industrial potential of the two countries is hardly being utilized, which is mainly due to the events in Chechnya, owing to which communications between the two countries have been disrupted. Therefore, a project for developing transport communications, including those on the Caspian, will be examined with interest.

At the same time, Gennadiy Seleznev noted that all the countries on the Caspian seaboard engaged in oil extraction and fishing in that unique body of water should have a relevant agreement regulating such activity.

The State Duma deputies were received by Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev. He stressed that for Azerbaijan, relations with Russia are a priority. The Azerbaijani parliamentarians appealed to their Russian counterparts to become involved in the process of attaining a settlement in the Nagornyy Karabakh conflict. [Video shows

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Seleznev at a meeting, then with President Aliyev and Azerbaijani deputies]

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Indignant at U.S. Congress Decision on Karabakh

LD1306164796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, June 13 (Interfax) — U.S.-Azerbaijani relations may be seriously aggravated if the U.S. Congress passes a decision questioning Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and its sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev told U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Kozlaric in Baku Thursday.

"The Porter amendment approved by the U.S. House of Representatives seriously affects U.S.-Azerbaijani relations," Aliyev said.

Last week's amendment links U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan with direct aid to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Baku is also indignant at the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh is mentioned as a separate entry in this document, ignoring its internationally recognized status as a part of Azerbaijan, Aliyev said.

This decision came unexpectedly against the background of the latest steps to expand U.S.-Azerbaijani cooperation in the exploration of offshore Caspian oil fields.

"This unfair decision must be cancelled," Aliyev said. He hoped Kozlaric would bring his position to the notice of the U.S. administration.

For his part, Kozlaric promised to convey this information to the United States as soon as possible.

Azerbaijan: Policy Adviser Criticizes U.S. Congress Decision

NC1306192196 Istanbul YENI GUNAYDIN in Turkish 11 Jun 96 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Vafa Guluzade, foreign policy adviser to the Azerbaijani president, said that Baku's policy on Nagorno-Karabakh will not be affected by some of the amendments introduced by the U.S. Congress to Section 907 of the "Freedom Support Act," which bars humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan.

Vafa Guluzade said: "Regardless of whether or not the Congress bars humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh remains an Azerbaijani land."

Explaining that the Armenian lobby in the United States is strong and can influence the adoption of some decisions on the eve of the elections, Guluzade stressed that Azerbaijan has the backing of the Turkish people, the Moslem world, and the European countries.

Indicating that they view Turkey's rejection of U.S. aid as an extremely positive move, Guluzade said: "As an independent state, Azerbaijan too should not be in need of help from anybody. We have natural wealth and oil. U.S. national interest necessitates political and economic cooperation with Azerbaijan."

Georgia

Georgia: Quadripartite Talks Discuss Crime in Abkhazia

LD1306133996 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1130 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gali, 13 Jun [IBERIA] — Quadripartite talks [between the Georgian, Abkhaz, and Russian sides and UN representatives] were held yesterday in Chuburkhini village, Gali district. General Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of the CIS peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone, focused on the worsening criminal situation in the conflict zone. The meeting discussed measures to overcome crime in the region. [passage omitted]

Georgia: State's Role in 'Common Communication Space' Viewed

AU1406102396 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 6 Jun 96 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Lika Masilaia: "The 'Caucasian Bridge' Gives Hope for a Settlement of the Abkhazian Conflict"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 2 June, during his meeting with Timothy Eggar, Great Britain's trade and industry minister, Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili pointed out that "the failure to resolve the Abkhazian problem is seriously hindering economic progress not only in Georgia but also in the entire Transcaucasus."

Russia Has Found Itself On the Other Side of the 'Caucasian Bridge'

Experts believe that a settlement of the Abkhazian problem will soon become a necessity for Russia. Russia is being pushed toward this on account of the fact that, without access to Abkhazian territory, it will be unable to become involved in the transport and communication networks in the Caucasus and Central Asia, which are being developed with the active support of leading western states.

During competition with western companies to exploit the oil reserves in the Caspian Sea, Russia, for the

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most part, disputed the status of the Caspian Sea and only received a 10 percent stake [in the International Caspian Oil Consortium]. Now that the time has come to develop the infrastructures of the Europe-Asia corridor, it is almost not involved in the Europe-Asia process of transport integration. However, the Europe-Asia line of communication is expanding still further.

It is precisely the joint exploitation and transportation of Caspian oil — the "project of the century," whose overall value has been put at $7.4 billion — that has become the main investment for the West, on the basis of which the idea of the creation of a common communication and transport space has begun to be developed.

It is with the active support of the EU that the so-called Trans-ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] project has been developed, which is directed toward the expansion of the Europe-Asia transport and communication systems. In May, the presidents of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Georgia signed an agreement on bringing into operation a railway and other lines of communication.

On the initiative of countries in the Central Asian region and with the support of western companies, a fiber-optic communication cable is being constructed that will connect Europe and Asia via Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. At the same time, work is also proceeding on the creation of a communication arc around the countries in the Black Sea basin region. If this idea is realized, the region's common communication space will embrace a larger territory.

Iran in Search of Routes

Iran, one of the leaders of the ECO regional organization, actively supports the restoration of the former "Silk Route." In spite of the fact that because of political pressure from the United States, Iran was not given any stake in the Azerbaijan International Oil Consortium, it is actively looking toward western markets. It is searching for the shortest routes that will link it with Russia and the European states. Such a link is only possible through Georgia. A "Central Asia-Georgia-Europe" route is vital for it. In addition, it is proposing the following communication option to the Georgian side: Iran-Georgia-Russia.

The Key to the Abkhazian Conflict

A few months after the visit made by the British trade and industry minister last year, one of the options for transporting oil from the Caspian Sea was resolved in favor of Georgia. "My visit confirms the great importance that Great Britain attaches to both economic cooperation with Georgia and the efficacy of the Eurasian transit route," said Tim Eggar during his visit to Tbilisi. With regard to Abkhazia, Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili told his British colleague that "the west's active position has imparted dynamism to the settlement of the conflict."

The Abkhazian conflict has not yet been resolved at the Georgian-Russian intersection. The railway line, which is one of the vital arteries in the Eurasian corridor, is not functioning there. If Russia wants to participate in the Eurasian commercial and economic and communication union, it is possible that one real way out of the Abkhazian impasse will appear. It should be taken into account that Abkhazia will not create so many problems with regard to bringing the "Caucasian corridor" into operation and Georgia's participation in it (Georgia will be linked to Europe via Turkey) as it will for Russia. In its search for the shortest routes toward the Near East, Moscow will be forced to take into account Georgia's interests.

Georgia: Armed Forces 'Entirely Dependent' on Russian Aid

MM1306153096 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 4 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Georgia by I. Moseshvili, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [040239] [Moseshvili over video of soldiers training] Georgia's Armed Forces are still in the formation stage. Over the past two to three years, following the change in the leadership of the republic's Ministry of Defense, there have been cadre changes, the structure of the ministry has been reorganized, and all subdivisions of the Georgian Army have now been formed. The Russian Ministry of Defense is giving substantial assistance to its Georgian colleagues. The military parade held in the country's main square on Independence Day graphically bore this out. According to the republic's military leadership, the Georgian Armed Forces are unable to acquire modern military equipment and munitions because there is no money in the country's budget for this. The Georgian Defense Ministry is therefore entirely dependent on Russia's assistance. Training of military cadres, joint protection of the state border, and joint military collegiums — this is by no means the full list of the services rendered by the Russian Federation to the Georgian Ministry of Defense.

In return Tbilisi has extended [the presence of] Russian military bases in Georgia by another 25 years. It can be

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said with confidence that cooperation between the two countries' armed forces is developing and strengthening despite provocations on the part of certain forces in both Russia and Georgia. [040339]

Georgia: Russian Polling Stations Established for Elections

LD1306132496 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1050 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 13 Jun — An IPRINDA correspondent reports that at the Russian embassy in Georgia a polling station has been opened for Russian citizens currently living in Tbilisi to cast their votes in the 16 June presidential elections.

On 16 June the polling station will function from 0800 to 2200. In addition there will also be polling stations in Batumi, Poti, Akhaltsikhe, Ochamchire [in Abkhazia], Sukhumi [in Abkhazia], Gudauta [in Abkhazia], Tskhinvali [South Osetia], as well as in the village of Vaziani and Akhali Alekseevka, for the military currently deployed there and their families.

Georgia: UN Observers To Resume Gali Posts as Mines Cleared

LD1306143196 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1130 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Gali, 13 June — As is known, the UN military observers have recently left the posts situated in the lower zone of Gali District under the pretext that the surrounding territories were mined. Today, the UN observers will resume their positions at the posts as the CIS peacekeeping forces have cleared the mines in the above territory.

Georgia: Georgian, Azerbaijani Commissions Meet To Discuss Border

LD1306133596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, June 13 (Interfax) — A joint meeting between the state commissions of Georgia and Azerbaijan on demarcation and delimitation of the border between the two countries is being held in Tbilisi on Thursday.

The commissions are headed by Mikhail Ukleba and Albert Salamov, the deputies of the two countries' foreign ministers, said Giro Grdzelidze, head of the Georgian Foreign Ministry's information department.

"The commissions just began their work and it is early thus far to speak about concrete results," he said.

He said that the two sides only detailed plans of the forthcoming work at the meeting, which will close on Friday, as well as problems associated with the creation of joint expert groups.

Both sides "have claims concerning certain sections of the border," he said.

Georgian Foreign Minister Irakly Menagarishvili, meeting with the delegations on Thursday, said that all border disputes will be settled by Georgia and Azerbaijan with due consideration of the interests of both sides, he said.

Similar commissions on demarcation and delimitation of the border with Russia and Armenia have been created in Georgia. "And since this work is actually completed with Russia and all disputes settled, the republic has to begin work with Armenia from scratch," he said.

Georgia: Abkhaz Separatists, Russian Communists Sign Support Accord

LD1306132996 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1050 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 13 Jun (IPRINDA) — An IPRINDA correspondent has been told at the press service of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia that on 10 June, Abkhaz separatists and representatives of the Working Russia party signed an agreement on mutual support in the event of threats from the "ruling regime of Russia".

According to a source, the issue in question is the armed alliance between the Working Russia party and the Russian and Abkhaz communist parties.

Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhaz separatist leader, currently on a visit to Moscow, hailed the agreement as historic and said that "Abkhazia was, is, and will be a serious pillar of support for the devoted Russian Leninists."

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Lithuania

Lithuania: Talks With U.S. Officials Recounted

WS1306132796 Tallinn BNS in English 1024 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jun 13, BNS — Lithuanian diplomats continue consultations with high United States officials in an effort not to be left outside the negotiation process on changes in Conventional Arms in Europe treaty.

Lithuania's ambassador to Washington Alfonsas Eidintas met on Monday and is likely to have more meetings soon with Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Lynn Davis who is the key U.S. negotiator in the revisions of the treaty process.

The ambassador told BNS he stressed Lithuania's aspirations to take part in future consultations at the meeting with Davis.

The U.S. official explained the so-called "secret agreement" which is perhaps what the Baltic states worry about most, Eidintas said.

Davis said the agreement deals with technical matters and ensured that it has nothing to do with the Baltics.

Baltic ambassadors were given a more detailed information about the technical side of the agreement Wednesday afternoon at the U.S. National Security Council.

Eidintas noted the concern of the Baltic countries and Estonia and Latvia in particular over the possible increased concentration of Russian troops at their border but he said altogether the agreement is viewed positively in general.

"It would be bad if there were no agreement at all and one could keep as many weapons as one wants," the ambassador said.

Asked to comment on the call by some Baltic politicians on the West to compensate for the undermined security in the Baltics following the permission to Russia to have more arms at the border, Eidintas said this was what they discussed with the Assistant U.S. Secretary of State.

"NATO membership would be the biggest compensation," the Lithuanian ambassador said. Altogether he acknowledged this to be a difficult task.

He said the compensation may take various forms — political, economic, military, enlarged cooperation to include Lithuania in the process.

Lithuania: Foreign Minister: NATO Only Reliable Guarantor of Security

LD1306172896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1445 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, June 13 (Itar-Tass) — NATO is the only reliable guarantor of security for Lithuania, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said at a new conference today.

"The strategic foreign policy goal of ensuring security guarantees for Lithiania is integration with the European Union and NATO, with keeping up good relations with the East," Gylys said.

He said a "cross" option of security guaranties from the East or Scandinavian countries is unacceptable for Lithuania, with the East referring to Russia.

Gylys called for expansion of bilateral relations of Lithuania with the Kaliningrad region, which is Russia's border enclave, and with Lithuania-bordering regions of Belarus and Poland.

He added that the contacts with the Kaliningrad region would not mean Lithuania's return to post-Soviet CIS structures, as asserted by the Lithuanian political opposition.

"Such contacts are in every way encouraged by the European Union and may be of great benefit," Gylys said.

He blasted the resolutions of city administrations of the capital Vilnius, Kaunas and other Lithuanian cities which recogniseed de facto and de jure the independence of the "republic of Ichkeria", or Chechnya.

Gylis said municipal self-rule is not a subject of international law and is not empowered to pass such decrees.

"This is a competence of the entire state and not of individual cities," the minister said.

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